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ARAB TIMES

SUNDAY, JULY 29, 1990/MOHARRAM 7, 1411 AH

22 PAGES 150 FILLS



HH the Amir talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal (centre) as Sheikh Sabah looks on.

Momentum builds for settlement

Saud Al Faisal carries message in Gulf shuttle

JEDDAH, July 28, (Agencies): Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal delivered messages from King Fahd to the rulers of Kuwait and Iraq today as the kingdom pushed to get the two sides to the negotiating table.

Diplomatic sources said they believed the messages contained invitations from the Saudi monarch to Kuwait's HH the Crown Prince-Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and the Iraqi second-in-command Ezzat Ibrahim to meet in Jeddah. HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah received at noon today the Saudi foreign

minister who conveyed a letter from the Saudi monarch to the Amir. Details of the letter were not disclosed.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sahah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, Foreign Undersecretary Suleiman Majed Al Shaheen and the Saudi ambassador to Kuwait Abdullah Abdulaziz Al Sudheiry.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister also received at his diwan in Bayan Palace in the afternoon the Saudi foreign minister.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein also today received a verbal message from Saudi monarch, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

It said that the message was delivered by Saudi foreign minister in the presence of Iraqi Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, but did not elaborate on its contents.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today received a phone call from Saudi monarch, a presidential palace spokesman said.

King Fahd had received a phone call from President Mubarak yesterday within the framework of their consultations to achieve Arab solidarity and ensure the Arab nation's interests.

Faisal's mission was preceded by an official Saudi statement welcoming a "bilateral meeting between representatives of Iraq and Kuwait in Jeddah over the coming few days. God willing, to thrash out all differences through fraternal and cordial dialogue."

(Continued on Page 8)

Muslim rebels threaten to blow up Trinidad premier

PORT-OF-SPAIN, July 28, (Reuters): Black Muslim extremists staging a coup attempt in Trinidad and Tobago have wired the country's prime minister to explosives and planned to blow him up if loyal forces try to free him and other hostages, a senior church official said today.

Roman Catholic Archbishop Anthony Panin said Yasin Abu Bakr, leader of the Muslim group that

seized and have held the officials in the Parliament building since Friday evening, had told him Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and 11 other hostages would die if attempts were made to storm the rebels' stronghold.

"He (Bakr) said he has them wired up and will fire them," Panin said in a state radio broadcast shortly after meeting with the rebel leader.

Panin said the situation was "very grim" and Bakr and his armed supporters appeared to be losing patience at the standoff.

Troops on Saturday surrounded the Parliament building where the radical Jamaat Al Muslimeen group launched the coup in which 25 people have been killed.

Witnesses said parts of the capital were ablaze and there was sporadic firing going on between forces loyal

to the government and supporters of the black Muslim group.

The Caribbean News Agency (Cana) quoted hospital sources as saying about 22 people, including several police officers, had been killed in gunfights between the two sides since the coup began.

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Quake survivors recount ordeal

Miracle man, woman

BAGUIO, Philippines, July 28, (Agencies): The miracle man and woman of the devastating earthquake that killed more than 1,600 people recounted today how they survived 11 days underneath a crumbled hotel by drinking their urine and rainwater, officials said.

Filipino miners burrowing through tons of concrete slabs and twisted steel in the flattened Hyatt terraces hotel under tropical downpours retrieved last night Arnel Calabia, 27, a security guard, and Luisa Mallorca, 21, a casino employee.

"They said they survived by drinking their urine. The workers found a cup near them which they apparently used," said government spokesman Horacio Paredes.

"At times, they said they drank rainwater seeping through the ruins. They said they spent the days talking to each other and praying. They never gave up hope," said Paredes.

Doctors said Calabia and Mallorca were in stable condition with minor bruises although three of Calabia's fingers may have to be amputated, said doctors at a hospital in the mountain resort of Baguio, 120 miles (200 km) north of Manila.

"Their temperature is normal. There are no signs of serious injury over the long term," said health undersecretary Mario Taguigwa.

"Mother, father, I am safe," Calabia said in an interview with radio station DZMM. Calabia said he and Mallorca escaped death by dashing under a table in the administration office near the elevator hallway on the third floor of the hotel when the quake rumbled across the main Philippine island of Luzon.

The rescue came after experts from Britain, Japan and Singapore on Sunday gave up hope of finding survivors in 28 buildings that collapsed in Baguio following the July 16 quake measuring 7.7 on the open-ended Richter scale.

The military office of civil defence said the death toll as of Saturday stood at 1,614. Another 1,037 were listed as missing and presumed dead and 3,303 were injured.

Officials said 1.1 million Filipinos either lost their homes or their jobs as a result of the tremor, the worst since a

quake and tidal wave killed more than 3,000 people in the southern Philippines in August 1976.

The military said heavy downpours on Friday caused fresh landslides that crushed a house and killed 10 people, including a family of five, in a village in Carangan in neighbouring Nueva Ecija province.

Calabia said he and Mallorca were with several other people when the tremor struck.

He said Mallorca yelled, "We should jump out. Somebody said 'no, don't jump. Let's stay here.'"

"We hid under the table. Then we did not know what happened next. It was dark. I talked and gongging (Mallorca's nickname) talked," Calabia said.

He said throughout his ordeal he was sitting like a driver in a car. He said three others were killed instantly and a companion died on the fourth day.

Officials said 18 bodies had been retrieved from the hotel. About 60 hotel and casino employees and 50 guests, including five Filipino-Americans, two Hong Kong Chinese, three Dutch and an Omani were reported trapped and presumed killed in the hotel.

In Manila today, President Corason Aquino thanked the Filipino gold miners who recovered the two from a lift shaft deep under layers of collapsed concrete in the hotel. She said in a statement they symbolised "our people's unswerving faith, determination to rise from this disaster, and aspirations for a much brighter future."

The rescuers said today a fly led them to decomposing bodies near the lift shaft where they found Mallorca pinned down by a fallen beam.

"There was a fly hovering near the seventh or eighth floor. We followed it till we reached the elevator shaft," said Raymond Chu-Chaun, a miner who led about 20 rescuers. "We explored the area and there we found the woman."

Faint cries for help nearby drew them to a man buried under layers of crumbled concrete.

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Luisa Mallorca (top) a 23-year-old janitress and Arnel Calabia, a 27-year-old security guard, peer pensively from their hospital beds in Baguio July 28 after Filipino miners plucked them from the collapsed Hyatt building where they have been entombed for 11 days. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bakhtiar unhappy at Paris decision

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

SHAHPOUR BAKHTIAR, Iran's last prime minister before the 1979 revolution, said yesterday he disapproved of France's decision to free Anis Naccache, the man who tried to kill him, calling it a political blunder which is neither in the interest of France nor the West.

"I am neither angry nor disappointed," he told the Arab Times in a telephone interview from his exile home in Paris. "From the moral and humanitarian point of view this decision is incomprehensible in a civilised society."

Naccache, a Lebanese Muslim, and three accomplices were sentenced to life imprisonment for killing a policeman and bystander in a 1980 attempt to murder Bakhtiar on orders from Iran. Bakhtiar escaped unhurt. A fifth accomplice was jailed for 20 years. All five left for Iran Friday.

Bakhtiar said that France and other countries that condemn terrorism stand nothing to gain from freeing the "professional assassins."

Naccache refused to discuss reasons behind the decision saying simply that he was French and he was a right to president to grant a pardon. He said he had no prior knowledge of the imminent release of the prisoners.

Press reports have linked the release with the dispute over the repayment of Iran's \$1 billion loan to a French nuclear energy consortium. Other reports claim that former French premier Jacques Chirac agreed to free Naccache and his accomplices in return for the release of four French hostages held by pro-Iranian captors in Lebanon. Chirac denies he made a deal with Iran.

Naccache release could lead to the liberation of all Western hostages in Lebanon, France's foreign minister was quoted today as saying.

"This measure excuses neither the crime nor the criminals," Foreign Minister Roland Dumas was quoted as saying by the newspaper Le Monde. "No more than it excuses terrorism, but it responds to considerations easy to imagine today."

Asked what could be expected from the pardoning of Naccache, Dumas said: "A general calming, a lowering of tensions in the region, and, I hope also, we are working toward it, the liberation of all Western hostages still held" in Lebanon.

French right-wing opposition politicians have protested against the release of Naccache, calling the move humiliating.

"It's a humiliation for France and an insult to the victims," said rightist deputy Hervé de Charette.

Iran today welcomed the release and a Tehran newspaper said it could help efforts to free Western hostages in Lebanon.

Naccache paid several million francs to the victims of his abortive attempt to kill Bakhtiar, his lawyer said today.

(Continued on Page 8)

Beach blast kills tourist

Tel Aviv bomb injures 19

TEL AVIV, July 28, (Agencies): A homemade pipe bomb exploded today on a crowded Tel Aviv beach, killing a 17-year-old Canadian tourist and injuring nineteen others, officials said.

Col. Bill Minis, a spokesman for the Canadian embassy in Tel Aviv said Marnie Kimmelman, 17, from Willowdale, Ontario died after surgery in Tel Aviv Ichilov hospital.

Kimmelman's parents, already on their way to Israel have not yet been informed of their daughter's death.

Kimmelman was on a tour sponsored by the Canadian Zionist Federation.

Earlier Dr Binka Ledderman, Deputy Director of Ichilov hospital had said Kimmelman was in critical condition after it was discovered that a major stomach vein had been severed by the bomb's shrapnel.

Tel Aviv police spokeswoman Dalia Gilad said thirteen Arabs

were detained on suspicion of planting the bomb, which had been hidden in a beach bag.

After the explosion, Israelis attacked several Arab bathers, stoned Arab-owned cars and beat Arab workers in the beach-front hotels. Four Arabs were treated in the hospital.

Ms Gilad said seven Israelis were detained by police in connection with the attacks.

She also said additional police were being deployed near the beaches to prevent further attacks on Arabs.

Ledderman said 18 other people, including three other young Canadian girls, were treated for slight injuries and released.

The 20th victim, a 9-year-old boy, was brought into another Tel Aviv hospital for treatment and was released.

Tel Aviv police spokeswoman Dalia Gilad said thirteen Arabs were detained, suspected of planting the bomb.

NEWSWATCH

Research lab: Kuwaiti scientists are seeking to set up a research laboratory for experiments that could help them extract heavy and inaccessible oil. If the project is given a green light it could lead to a large increase in the country's oil reserves making Kuwait an even bigger player on the international oil market. The programme coincides with efforts to develop a national expertise and bring it in line with the sector's commercial success.
(See Page 9)

Libya averts collapse: Libya saved the council of Arab economic unity from possible collapse by paying its pledged financial share for 1990, an official said Saturday.

Ghail Hamza, the Amman-based council's secretary-general, told the Associated Press that Libya's 1990 share totalling \$376,000 was received on Friday.

"The Libyan donation came at a time when our council was wrestling with drastic financial crises," Hamza said in an interview.

He said: "We express our appreciation and gratitude to the government of Libya."

Hamza said his council "was looking forward for Arab member states to honour their financial promises soon in order to keep this institution running. (AP)

Hijacker may be freed soon: The West German government will free two Shiite Lebanese brothers it holds on terrorism charges before the end of this year, a well-informed Lebanese magazine said Saturday.

As-Shiraa weekly, which uncovered arms-for-hostages deal between Iran and the United States, said the decision to release hijacker Mohammed Ali Hamadi and his brother Abbas came after "contacts through the German embassy in Beirut."

Abbas Hamadi "will be freed next month if no last minute surprises occur," the magazine said. (UPI)

Arafat due here: Daily "Al Watan" newspaper has learnt that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat is due to arrive in Kuwait Saturday for talks with senior government officials on the latest Arab developments. (Kuna)



Pop star Madonna performs before an estimated crowd of 60,000 in Sania Calderon stadium in Madrid in her first Spanish concert of her "Blond Ambition" tour. (Reuters wirephoto) See Page 3



Television actress Rosanna Barr and husband Tom Warner (back) face reporters during a news conference in which she gave her side of the controversy over her angling of the national anthem at the July 25 baseball game in San Diego. Barr, who was "booed" by fans after singing, said she did not intend to offend anyone. (Reuters wirephoto) See Page 3

Rival Shiites resume battle

16 killed, 40 wounded

SIDON, July 28, (Agencies): Fierce fighting raged between rival Shiite Muslim militias backed by Syria and Iran in south Lebanon, killing at least 16 combatants and wounding 40, police said.

A police spokesman said the fighting covered an 8-mile (13-km) V-shaped front in the disputed Iqlim Al Tuffah, southeast of this port city.

The clashes pitted the fundamentalist, pro-Iranian Hezbollah, against the more secular Syrian-backed Amal.

Hezbollah, in a statement, said fighters of Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation were siding with Amal militiamen in an attack against its positions in the villages of Kfar Milki and Jarjou.

Hezbollah combats the Palestinian deployment, which has blocked its advance west toward the Mediterranean coast and south toward the main Shiite cities.

The police spokesman said

fighters from Arafat's mainstream Fatah group sealed off the region west of Kfar Milki, preventing policemen and news reporters from monitoring the confrontation zone.

However, he said ambulances evacuated four dead Palestinians and 23 wounded to hospitals in Sidon.

"The Palestinians are obviously involved in the fighting but we can't establish whether they are taking part in ground attacks or just participating in the shelling duel with Hezbollah gunners," the police spokesman said.

"The whole front is on fire," the spokesman said, noting that the shelling duel registered the intensity of about 20 rounds per minute at peak times.

Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, said a Hezbollah source stressed that it fighters were willing to accept a ceasefire to allow the Red Cross to evacuate casualties from Jarjou.

See also Page 11

Move to impose sanctions on Aoun

BEIRUT, July 28, (Reuters): Lebanon's pro-Syrian government is to impose sanctions on defiant Christian General Michel Aoun to try to force him into submission, government sources said today.

They said the sanctions were agreed at a four-hour cabinet meeting headed by President Elias Hrawi at his residence in Muslim West Beirut.

"The government has decided to take the appropriate measures against the former commander of the army Michel Aoun. Aoun bears full responsibility for obstructing the peace process and prolonging the suffering of the people," the statement said.

Political sources in West Beirut said the Hrawi govern-

ment hoped shortages resulting from sanctions would create discontent among additional Aoun supporters, undermining the general's power base in the Christian enclave.

Government sources told Reuters the cabinet agreed to cut the supply of fuel and commodities and to withhold the salaries of civil servants in areas under Aoun's control.

The Central Bank, which is based in West Beirut, would be asked to stop cash flow into East Beirut branches.

The government would ask foreign diplomats to halt any contact with the defiant general.

See also Page 11

Currency Rates

THE Central Bank of Kuwait currency rates against the Kuwaiti dinar on July 28, valued for July 31, 1990.

Currency	Buying	Selling
US dollar	289.420	289.570
Sterling	520.290	520.808
Deutsche mark	178.930	179.968
Swiss franc	211.839	212.997
French franc	053.455	053.743
Italian lire	000244	000246
Japanese yen	001937	001948
Bahraini dirar	764.836	768.395
Qatari riyal	079.192	079.595
Saudi riyal	076.871	077.239
Omani riyal	748.851	752.520
UAE dirham	078.502	078.858

Asian currency exchange rates against Kuwaiti dinar:

Currency	Gold PRICES
Indian Rs (1,000)	16.600
US dollar	13.320
Sri Lanka Rs	7.230
Singapore dollar	159.75
Hong Kong dollar	37.33
Bangladesh taka	9.640
Philippine peso	12.585

One ounce gold 113.000

Courtesy: Abdulaziz & Ali Al Yousif Al Muzaini Co.

ARAB TIMES

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Coupons for game No. 78 appear till August 4. Last date for sending entries is August 6 and the numbers will be drawn from August 8.

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INTERNATIONAL

Bicycle brigade versus baby brigade in Sri Lanka's war

TIRUKOVIL, Sri Lanka, July 28, (AP): Police commandos on bicycles zig-zag through jungle tracks, dodging landmines in a deadly game of hide-and-seek with teen-age Tamil rebels.

It's the "bicycle brigade," as they call themselves, against the "baby brigade," as young militants of the Tamil Tiger militia are known. Some of them are hardly 12 years old.

"The bicycle brigade has more chances of avoiding the buried explosives than a hoot. The damage causes less injuries as the blast is cushioned by the bicycle," said senior commando Upali Sahabandu.

The deadly homemade mines are the militants' most successful

weapon against the commandos of the special task force. The mines, which consists of high explosives packed into wooden boxes with two small batteries, have been dubbed Johnnies, dice or batta by the Sri Lankan troops.

Dozens of commandos have lost their legs to the pressure mines since June 11 when fighting started between the government forces and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The government claims its troops now control a 60-kilometre (33-mile) swathe of the eastern coast between Lahugala, south of Tirukovil, and Kalmunai to its north.

Special task force chief Lionel Karunasena said his Tirukovil unit of 125 men has mastered the art of anticipating rebel moves.

"We know they lay the mines under culverts. We also are fairly accurate on timings and locations and we have hustled this operation," he said.

The rebels operate in groups of five to seven to minimise losses. "We do the same. We know their game, they know ours. So we are even," Karunasena told a group of visiting reporters.

"That is why they avoid tangle with our bicycle brigade or hit us with mines on these roads," he said.

The 2,500-member special task force was trained by former

members of the British Special Air Services (SAS) commando force who banded together to form the Keeni-Meeni Services based in the Channel Islands.

Tirukovil, a Tamil town of 20,000 people on the eastern coast, was a Tiger stronghold last month. The militants slipped into the jungles early this month when advancing commandos moved in and set up camp in the town's main hospital.

People in the town, 217 kilometres (136 miles) east of Colombo, say that although the troops control the area during day, the rebels return from the jungles to prowling at night.

"A dog's bark in the dark is a sure sign the Tiger rebels are

Tamil Tigers ambush troop patrol: 14 killed

COLOMBO, July 28, (Agencies): Tamil Tiger rebels ambushed a troop patrol with mortars and rockets near the eastern port town of Trincomalee, killing at least 14 soldiers, military officials said today.

At least 30 soldiers were on patrol yesterday when they were attacked, said the officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

In other fighting in Sri Lanka's civil war yesterday, at least nine people were killed they said. The dead included four rebels, two soldiers and three civilians, they said.

Yesterday's fighting was reported in the east, where the rebels have been dislodged from the town

and cities they controlled until last month. But the guerrillas have regrouped in jungles and swamps in the interior and appear prepared for a protracted war.

The deaths raise to at least 2,950 the number of combatants killed since fighting between the rebels and government forces resumed June 11 after a 13-month-long ceasefire. Many civilians also have died.

In the north, government troops have advanced to the causeway linking the Jaffna peninsula, the rebel headquarters, in the mainland. The peninsula is under rebel control except for four military installations, including an airfield.

Government troops searching for land mine, warded off a Tamil Tiger ambush and killed at least 20 rebels in eastern Sri Lanka, military officials said yesterday.

One soldier also was killed and six injured in Thursday's fighting near Sitandikulam village in Batticaloa district, 225 kms (140 miles) east of Colombo, the officials said.

In another incident, troops ambushed and shot dead three Tamil rebels in Rottikulam village, 14 kms (12 miles) west of Batticaloa town, said the officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

around. Nobody else moves out at night," said Rev. Thaya Seelan, a Tamil Methodist priest. The commandos say the tak-

ing of Tirukovil, which has ample jungle cover to the west and the Indian Ocean to the right, has dealt a severe blow to

guerrilla operations. "Tirukovil is vitally located for jungle based hit-and-run attacks. Without Tirukovil as a

base... it will be difficult for the terrorists to launch any campaign to clear government forces in the eastern coast."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ban on film: The ban imposed by the British board of film classification on a Pakistani-made film because it criminally libels the author Salman Rushdie has been challenged as inconsistent, it was reported in London on Saturday.

Distribution of the video "International Guerrillas" was banned in the UK because it depicts the author of "The Satanic Verses" as a drunk who tortures and shoots Muslims.

The decision provoked an outcry among British Muslims, who said that if the film was banned, the book, which they insist blasphemes Islam, should be too. (Kuna)

Minister resigns: Bulgaria's interior minister resigned on Friday as hundreds demonstrated outside parliament over its decision that a speech by former Communist strongman Todor Zhivkov could not be broadcast live.

Amid turbulent scenes in the Grand National Assembly, General Atanas Semerjev accused the opposition of "taking advantage of my tolerance" and submitted his resignation.

"If the guards had given me a pistol, I would have shot myself," he said as he left the hall. (Reuters)

Unilateral truce: Colombia's drug-traffickers said on Friday they were declaring a

unilateral truce in their almost year-long war no the state, which has claimed hundreds of lives in car bomb explosions and street shootings.

"Almost all the Colombian people want peace. We therefore declare a unilateral and indefinite truce and suspend attacks on the police, bombings in all Colombian cities and executions of politicians, journalists, judges, officials," a communique from the Extraditables — drug barons wanted for trial in the United States — said. (Reuters)

Military hunt coup suspects: Nigerian authorities expanded their hunt for suspects in a coup plot on Saturday after military rulers carried out the country's biggest mass execution in recent history.

In a radio and television broadcast on Friday, Chief of General Staff Augustus Abacha said 42 people had been shot by firing squad for attempting to overthrow the government of President Ibrahim Babangida on April 22.

He urged citizens to help security forces track down 13 fugitives with a price on their heads. (Reuters)

Earthquake: An earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale shook Vanuatu's largest island early on Saturday, but officials said damage was minor and there were no reports of

injuries. The Hong Kong observatory measured Saturday's quake at 7.3 on the Richter scale — the same intensity as the one which last month devastated part of northern Iran — but the epicentre apparently was in the Pacific Ocean off the island's coast. (AP)

Air Inter strike: The French domestic airline Air Inter scrapped 40 per cent of its flights Saturday after negotiations with unions representing ground personnel failed to reach agreement.

The two-day job action, which began Friday, put a crimp into air travel during a weekend when many French families began traditional August vacations.

Unions seeking increased pay and staffing also gave notice for a new work stoppage of at least 24 hours next Thursday or Friday. (UPI)

Confidence vote: Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti on Saturday won a confidence vote approving his rapid replacement of five ministers who resigned in a row over amendments to a new law.

The chamber of deputies supported a government resolution approving the prime minister's appointments by 356 votes to 177 in an open roll-call vote. (UPI)

Police clash with CRPF

Differences over Kashmir tactics

SRINAGAR, India, July 28, (Reuters): A group of local policemen clashed with central paramilitary forces in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir today over their handling of a demonstration against Indian rule, witnesses said.

Thousands of paramilitary police have been brought in from outside the mainly Muslim region to deal with the separatist conflict, in which more than 900 people have died this year.

The incident occurred after men of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) used canes and tear gas to break up a pro-independence demonstration by students and schoolchildren chanting, "We want freedom" and "Indians go home."

Some of the fleeing demonstrators sought refuge in a mosque. According to police and witnesses, CRPF men charged in after them without removing their boots.

Infuriated by what they saw as an act of sacrilege, the Muslim policemen grappled with the mostly Hindu paramilitary men, witnesses said. Some shouted pro-independence slogans and tore off their uniforms.

Senior police officers rushed to the mosque and succeeded in cooling tempers. Police said that more than 30 demonstrators were injured and about half needed hospital treatment.

It was the second time in two days that Kashmiri police had opposed paramilitary security tactics. On Friday, they walked away in protest when the CRPF used canes and tear gas to break up another pro-independence demonstration.

A serious revolt against Indian rule erupted in January in Jammu and Kashmir, the only state in India with a Muslim majority. Several dozen secessionist groups are fighting for a re-united and independent Kashmir, or to join Pakistan.

The US State Department yesterday urged Americans to defer travel to Kashmir, India, because of political unrest and warned especially against flights to and from the city of Srinagar because of potential terrorism.

In an advisory, the department ruled out travel to the entire state of Kashmir because of continuing political tensions and disturbances.

It cited reports that posters, possibly from militant groups, had appeared in the area warning the public not to fly domestic Indian Airlines to or from the Kashmir city of Srinagar.

"Americans are therefore advised not to take flights destined to or originating in Srinagar because of the possibility of terrorist acts," the department said.

Akmal Hussain, advisor to Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto on economic affairs, today urged India to "resolve the vexed Kashmir issue in deference to the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

"Such a gesture by India would change the perceptions of smaller neighbours that New Delhi seeks hegemony in the region by establishing a lasting peace," Hussain, leader of the Pakistani delegation said on the second day at international conference on peace and security in South and South-East Asia in New Delhi.

He said the current tension between India and Pakistan has shown that the "major obstacle" to the fulfilment of the collective vision of the peoples of South Asia was the Kashmir dispute.

Bomb rips through Lahore bus: one dies

LAHORE, July 28, (AP): A bomb ripped through a passenger bus in the eastern city of Lahore today, killing a child and injuring nine other people, police said.

Three of the injured were in critical condition, hospital officials said.

The bomb was planted at the rear of the bus, which was parked outside Lahore railway station adjacent to a crowded market, said police officials, speaking on the usual condition they not be identified.

No one has claimed responsibility for the explosion, police said.

Several bombs have exploded in Lahore over the past few months. Police have blamed India, which is struggling to crush a secessionist movement in its troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir.

A spokesman for the opposition All-Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference called this a "tall claim to mislead the people."

Rathore took power in Azad Kashmir last month as a nominee of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the head of a coalition led by their Pakistan People's Party.

"Measures taken so far to curb bribery and corruption... have forced corrupt elements to refund more than Rs20 million (\$700,000)," he said.

Earlier this month Rathore removed several senior government officials from key positions and set up a commission to investigate corruption.



Artificially-ill patient sleeps in Dhaka Medical College hospital while his wife and child rest beneath the bed during a 72-hour strike by doctors in protest of a recent government move to limit their private practice. (Reuters wirephoto)

Doctors strike in Bangladesh

Protest at new rules

DHAKA, July 28, (Reuters): Paramedics and nurses staffed hospitals in Bangladesh were paralysed today after doctors began a three-day strike to protest at the government's plan to limit private practice.

Critically ill patients were drenched in driving rains as they left hospitals in search of alternative treatment, witnesses said.

More than 15,000 doctors, representing two-thirds of the country's practising physicians, went on strike to force the government to scrap proposed medical rules.

The new rules seek to ban government-employed physicians from engaging in private practice and compel junior doctors to work in the rural villages of Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries.

Authorities said they had set up special centres in Dhaka's two hospitals with the help of a small group of non-striking doctors to treat patients needing emergency help.

A nurse at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital said many patients who chose to stay on were given medicines prescribed by doctors before the strike.

"The problem is we would not know if the medicine would have to be changed or stopped," said Shirin Bannu.

"We need medication, we need

help. Something is better than nothing," said patient Mohammad Aslam at the Post-Graduate Medicine Hospital.

Aslam, 44, suffering from chronic dysentery, said a paramedic had prescribed some pain-killing tablets for him.

In Chittagong, several private clinics functioned normally but the port city's two government hospitals admitted no new patients, district officials said.

The Bangladesh Medical Association warned that all its members would resign en masse from hospital jobs if the government did not scrap the proposed rules by Tuesday.

"We are giving the government some breathing time," said M.A. Majid, president of the association.

The policy, announced by Health Minister Azizur Rahman in Parliament on Thursday, proposed to ban private practices by government doctors.

It also requires junior doctors to serve in village hospitals and government dispensaries for at least two years to qualify for promotion.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad last week announced that the country's health service would be revamped to give the rural population access to proper medical treatment.

Opposition likely to boycott Dhaka polls

DHAKA, July 28, (Reuters): Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad said today parliamentary elections would follow the presidential poll he has promised to hold next year.

His declaration made it likely the main opposition parties would again boycott the elections.

"Let there be no mistake that the country is up for a presidential election next year. Parliamentary polls will follow in due course," Ershad told a ruling Jatiya Party rally.

"The constitution ordains there must be a fresh election before the current term of the president expires next year," he said. "Parliamentary elections must have parliamentary elections after every five years. We must learn to obey the constitution," he added.

Ershad, an army general who has ruled the poor South Asian nation for more than eight years, previously announced he would stand in presidential polls to be held by October 14 next year. Parliamentary elections are due in 1993.

Opposition parties fear government rigging if the polls are held in that order. Newspapers have reported that the opposition might not boycott elections if a new parliament is chosen before the next president.

Ershad seized power in a coup in 1982 from an elected government. He won a presidential election in 1986 by a landslide and the Jatiya Party won a two-thirds majority in 1988 parliamentary polls.

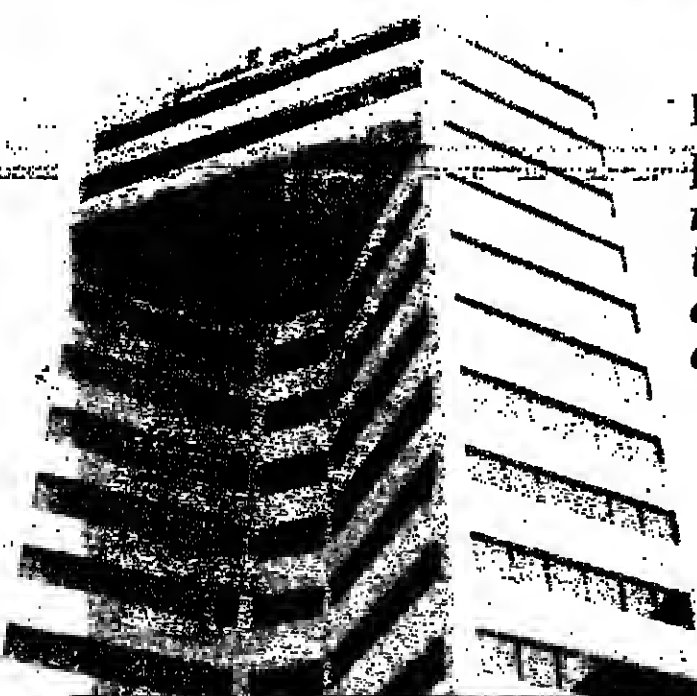
Independent observers accused the government of rigging the elections and the main opposition parties boycotted both polls.



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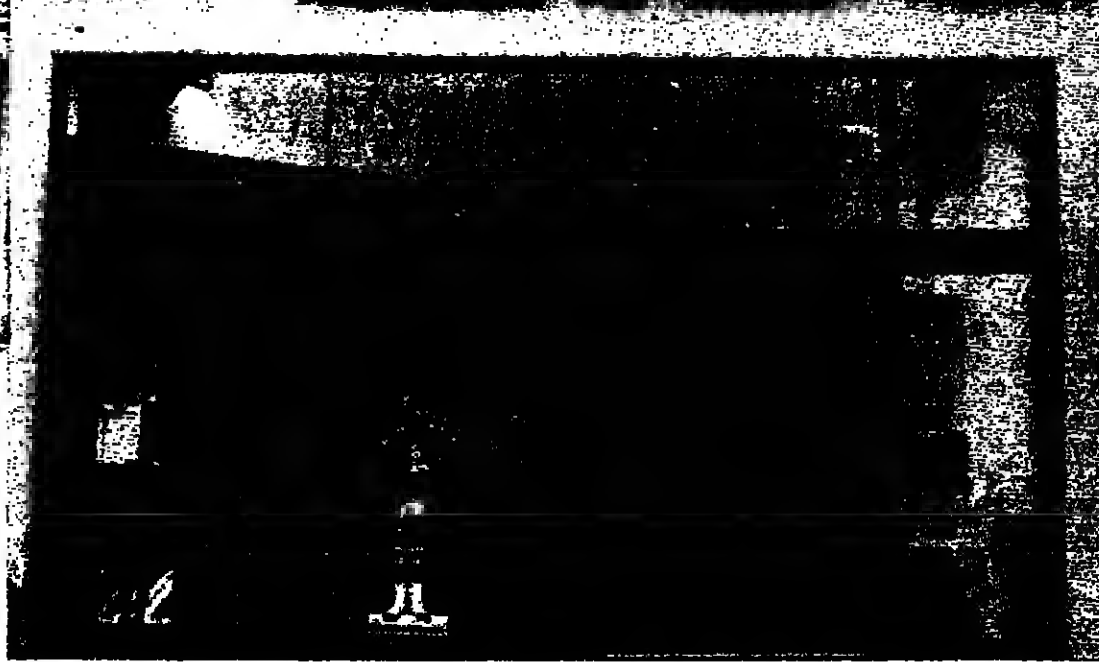
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People & Places



Madonna performs

Pop star Madonna (centre) performs with group members as she wears a Madrid's soccer club "Atletico Madrid" jersey during her first Spanish concert of her "Blond Ambition" tour in Madrid on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

ADELAIDE, Australia: In Margaret Thatcher's favourite book, the working class rises up to take bloody revenge against the rich.

That's just one of the insights gathered by librarian Margaret Berketa in a survey of the rich and famous' reading habits as part of a major project to mark the International Year of Literacy.

More than 50 celebrities have replied to her letters requesting details of their favourite books, and the responses are still flowing in.

Among them are letters from members of the British royal family who because of protocol politely declined to nominate one book.

"Thatcher, in the midst of a record-breaking term as Britain's prime minister, praises 'A Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens.

LONDON: Roger Daltrey, lead singer of The Who, accepted a \$272,000 settlement Thursday to his lawsuit against a nearby farm that he blamed for the deaths of up to 500,000 fish at his own trout farm.

Daltrey and his company, Beja Bop Ltd, has sued owners of the home farm where a leak of liquid fertilizer in August 1986 entered a river and caused damage at Daltrey's Iwerne Springs Fish Farm in Dorset in southwest England.

Daltrey, 45, originally had sought damages of \$905,000. The home farm had admitted liability, but disputed the amount of damages. (AP)

EL SEGUNDO, California: Zsa Zsa Gabor, clutching a "good luck" stuffed frog, went to jail Friday to serve a three-day sentence for slapping a Beverly Hills policeman.

Sleeping out of a black Mercedes-Benz before the cell doors closed behind her, Gabor said she had bought a designer prison dress — lots of stripes, darlings — and had T-shirts showing her looking out through prison bars.

Asked if she was worried about eating jail food, the eight-times married Gabor, who says she is 58 although she was recently shown to be 72, replied: "I'm going to eat salad." (Reuters)

DETROIT: Continental Express Airlines hung out a help wanted sign Friday for comedians to entertain passengers on its 17-minute flights between Cleveland and Detroit.

The routines will provide "relaxation on the way home" for business travellers, who will also be treated to business lectures on morning flights, the airline said.

The comedians — who will be auditioned in Detroit on Monday and in Cleveland the following day — will remain on the 33-passenger Embraer 120 Brasilia jet-props for four trips daily in each direction. (Reuters)



Mistrial declared

A mistrial was declared Friday in the molestation retrial of child care provider Raymond Buckey (shown above) after a jury said it was deadlocked on eight sex counts involving children at the McMartin pre-school.

"We are hopelessly and irreversibly hung on all counts," the jury in the nation's longest, costliest criminal case told Superior Court Judge Stanley Weisberg.

Weisberg declared a mistrial, saying, "It is clear to me that the jury will not reach a verdict in this."

Buckey could be tried again. There was no immediate word from district attorney IRA Reiner's office.

It was the latest unusual twist in the highly publicised case, which lasted seven years, including three years for the first trial, which cost \$13.5 million (Reuters wirephoto)



Roemer vetoes

Gov. Buddy Roemer (shown left addressing) announced Friday that he has vetoed what would have been the nation's toughest state abortion law.

The measure, thrown together in the final days of a tumultuous session of the Louisiana legislature, was designed to challenge the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalised abortion.

"I vetoed this bill because it does not meet even the minimum standards set forth by me long ago," Roemer said, leading from a statement.

Roemer has long insisted that any anti-abortion bill must contain exceptions for rape and incest. The rape exception in the bill he vetoed wasn't strong enough, he said. (Reuters wirephoto)



Television actress Rosanne Barr (right) and her husband Tom Warner face reporters during Friday's news conference in which she gave her side of the controversy over her singing of the national anthem at a July 25 baseball game in San Diego. Barr, who was "booed" by fans, said she did not intend to offend anyone. (Reuters wirephoto)

Barr rendition of US national anthem slammed

LOS ANGELES, July 28. (Reuters): A tortured rendition of the US national anthem by the country's top television comedienne has caused a national furor, with President George Bush joining in the fray yesterday to slam her singing as "disgraceful."

"My reaction is it was disgraceful," Bush told reporters after Rosanne Barr, the outspoken, abrasive star of the popular television series "Roseanne," was booed by fans after singing a shrill, out-of-tune version of the anthem before a baseball game on Thursday night.

California radio and television stations were deluged

with protests after the game between the San Diego Padres and the Cincinnati Reds with callers saying her version had been unpolite and obscene.

Her screeching rendition was shown repeatedly on US television yesterday and America's newspapers featured front-page photographs of the pudgy actress grabbing her crotch in a rude gesture to a booing audience after the song. The gesture is not uncommon on the baseball pitch from disgruntled players and Barr said yesterday at a news conference that it had been suggested by some of the Padres players.

Moncton, New Brunswick, has been moved to Saturday night, and a Saturday concert at Old Orchard Beach, Maine, has been moved to Sunday.

Fans who can't make the rescheduled concerts will get their money back. (AP)

Report in public interest, says CDC
Experts unsure if dentist transmitted Aids

ATLANTA, July 28. (AP): Federal Aids experts said yesterday they likely will never know for sure whether a dentist transmitted Aids to a patient, but were obligated to warn the public about the possibility.

A report Thursday from the US Centers for Disease Control that a young woman apparently was infected by her dentist while having two molars pulled made newspaper headlines and drew criticism from the American Dental Association. Dental association officials said the agency may have jumped to conclusions.

Dr Harold Jaffe, deputy director for science at the CDC's HIV-Aids programme said yesterday there's no way researchers will ever prove the woman infected during the dental

procedure, although all available evidence points to that conclusion.

"We don't really expect we will get more information," Jaffe said.

The CDC's weekly report, which carried details of the case, routinely informs physicians and public health officials about noteworthy developments in infectious disease. It is not unusual for the report to note — as this week's report did — that the source of a specific illness cannot be proven with 100 per cent certainty.

But Dr Enid Neidle, director of scientific affairs for the Chicago-based Dental Association, said the body did not consider it a conclusive case of transmission.

"We are not happy at any report that could

raise fears on the part of the public that the dental office is a place of danger and infection," Neidle said.

Jaffe said in response, "I don't think we'd be serving the public interest to not publish this case."

The agency said a lengthy investigation of the woman's case found no other risk factors for Aids, such as intravenous drug abuse or numerous sexual encounters. Two men she had dated each tested negative for HIV, the Aids virus, and DNA-virus testing showed a likely match between her strain of HIV and the dentist's.

But researchers are not exactly sure how the woman actually became infected.

Three-year-old shot dead

Third child killed in New York in a week

NEW YORK, July 28. (Reuters): In one week, three children and a teenager have been shot dead in New York by stray bullets, setting off a wave of fear that no-one is safe in a city where drug dealers, criminals and thrill-seekers have easy access to guns.

The latest victim was a three-year-old boy killed on Thursday, when gunmen pumped 18 bullets through a steel door intended to protect his family's apartment in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn.

Mime artist Marceau going deaf

LONDON, July 28. (AP): French mime artist Marcel Marceau, whose silent creations have captivated the world for more than 40 years, yesterday said he is going deaf.

The 67-year-old Marceau, who was in London for a month-long season at Sadler's Wells Theatre, blamed the deafness on excessive air travel during his years of performing

all over the world.

"My ears are blocked. Fortunately I don't have to speak onstage but I do find it embarrassing," Marceau said.

But there was also a benefit to his deafness, he said.

"Sometimes people talk nonsense so it lets me hear what I want to hear," Marceau said.

Rocker Mydland death cause still unknown

SAN FRANCISCO, July 28. (Reuters): An autopsy performed yesterday failed to disclose the cause of death of Brent Mydland, keyboard player for the Grateful Dead rock band, a coroner's spokesman said.

Mydland, 38, was found dead on Thursday in his suburban San Francisco home by friends who became alarmed when they could not reach him by telephone, said Sergeant Richard Terry, spokesman for the Contra Costa County coroner.

He said there was no evidence of foul play and results of toxicology tests would not be known for at least two weeks.

The other five members of one of America's oldest rock groups issued a statement saying, "We have lost a brother in music and we grieve for him and his family."

The group had just returned after a three-week tour that ended on Monday in Chicago. It was scheduled for a tour of Europe in October and the plans for the tour were not immediately announced.

Benjamin's sister was wounded in the attack.

Earlier in the week two young girls, a one-year-old and a nine-year-old, were killed by stray bullets in the East York section of Brooklyn, a neighbourhood where warring drug gangs take over the streets at night.

Nine-year-old Veronica Corales was shot dead on Sunday as she lay sleeping in her mother's arms in a car after returning with her family late at night from visiting an amusement park called "Great Adventure." She was shot in the brain by a stray bullet.

On Tuesday, Yariumi Fruto, age one, was killed as she drove in her father's car. A man stepped from behind a truck and fired at her father, killing him. One bullet passed through his body into his daughter's body.

Police said the Fruto killings appeared to be deliberate. Her father, Edward, 26, had a criminal record and recently testified for the prosecution in a murder trial.

And also killed during the week by a sniper's bullet was 18-year-old Hassoun Tatum.

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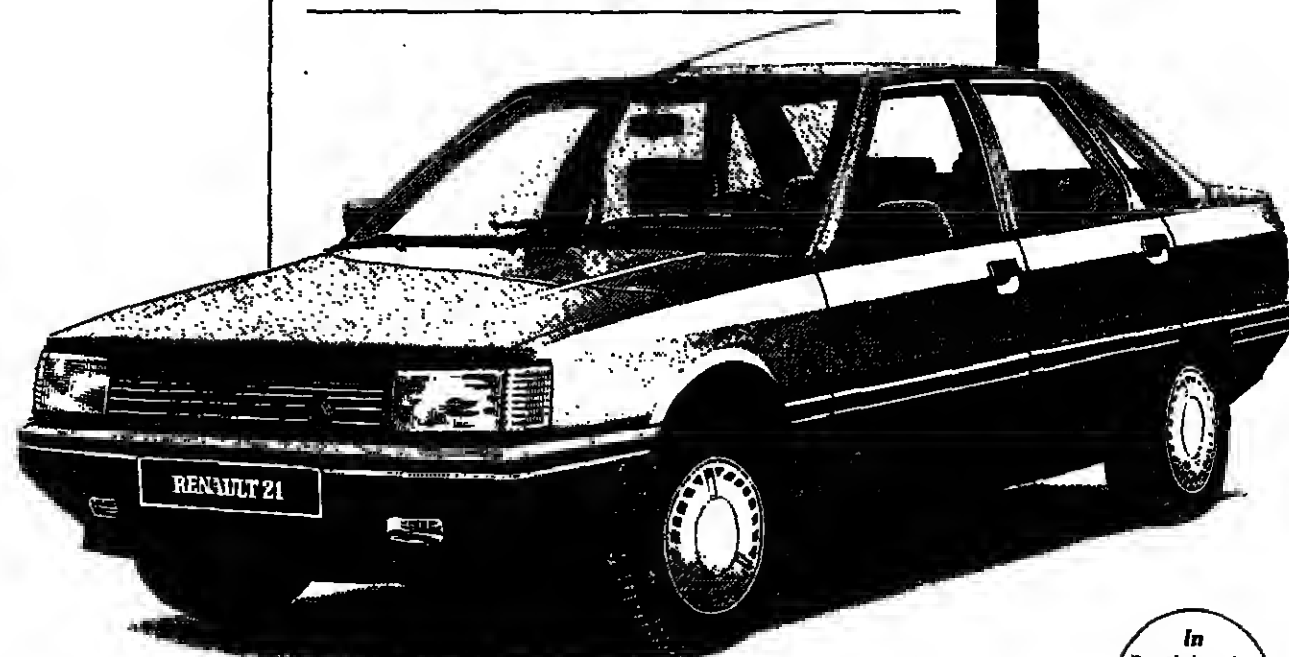
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Hasenfus recounts downing of plane

MIAMI, July 28, (AP): The survivor of the 1986 plane wreck in Nicaragua that helped unravel the Iran-Contra affair tearfully recounted the crash as he testified in his damage suit against a retired general and a CIA-linked airline.

Eugene Hasenfus, who was a cargo handler aboard planes carrying aid to the Contras, filed a federal lawsuit along with the family of co-pilot Wallace Sawyer Jr., who was among three killed when a Sandinista rocket downed their plane.

Hasenfus his voice cracking and tears in his eyes, said he stood in the open cargo door as his C-123 flew into southern Nicaragua on Oct. 5, 1986, with a load of supplies for a Contra force pinned down by Sandinistas.

"There was a loud explosion from the right. I was astounded. The whole plane was on fire," Hasenfus said.

"Sawyer yelled 'What happened?' It was the last thing he ever said."

Wearing a skydiving parachute supplied by his brother in Wisconsin, Hasenfus tried to jump, but initially became entangled in a machine-gun aimed out the door. Finally, he freed himself and pulled his ripcord.

"I was in a state of shock," he said. "I could see the aircraft in a spin there was nothing but black smoke and flames."

Hasenfus and Sawyer's family are suing retired air force Major-General Richard Secord and Miami-based Southern Air Transport, alleging they misled the crew and negligently used aircraft without adequate safety equipment.

Following the crash, president Ronald Reagan denied there was any US government connection to the flight. But Hasenfus, and documents in the wreckage of the plane, told another story, linking the crew to US officials.

And after the disclosure the following month that proceeds from the Reagan administration's secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to the Contras, congressional investigations showed that the plane was part of White House aide Oliver North's secret Contra supply network.

The Contras were seeking to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government.

Hasenfus said he evaded the Sandinistas overnight in the rain-soaked jungle, but was captured the next day. They brought him to the crash site, where he said the soldiers showed him a bag containing the remains of Sawyer, pilot William Cooper, and the mission's Contra radio man.

"They laughed. They thought it was funny," Hasenfus said. The Sandinistas eventually convicted Hasenfus of terrorism and sentenced him to 10 years in prison, but released him after three months.

Before recounting the crash, Hasenfus, 49, now a construction worker in Marietta, Wisconsin, said he worked for CIA-owned Air America during the Vietnam war.

When Central American hostilities heated up in July 1986, he was contacted by Cooper and brought to the Southern Air headquarters at Miami International Airport. He signed a contract with Corporate Air Services but said he understood it was a front for Southern Air, which was paying his expenses.

He said the crews complained that there was no safety equipment such as parachutes or survival gear and that the navigation radios did not work properly. But he said he accepted the defects, thinking it was a patriotic, shoe-string effort to fight communists in Central America.

Coup bid in Trinidad

Premier besieged; troops surround parliament



A. N. R. Robinson, the ousted prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago shown in a file photo. (Reuter wirephoto)

Economic crisis Trinidad struggles

PORT-OF-SPAIN, July 28, (Reuter): Trinidad and Tobago, an oil-rich member of Commonwealth, has struggled to diversify its economy since slumping oil prices plunged the Caribbean country into a severe economic crisis.

The dual-island nation, located just seven miles off the Venezuelan coast, was discovered by Christopher Columbus on his third voyage to the region in 1498.

The country of 1.3 million has one of the world's most multi-racial populations with the descendants of immigrants from India, China, Africa, Europe and the Middle East who moved to the island colony after the abolition of slavery in 1834 to meet labour shortages. Most inhabitants live on the larger island of Trinidad.

After being ruled by the Spanish and British, the country became a republic within the Commonwealth in 1976. Prime Minister A. N. R. Robinson and his National Alliance for Reconstruction party won election in 1986, breaking a 30-year hold on power by the People's National Movement.

In recent months, the government has been plagued by strikes by hospital nurses demanding higher wages. Since 1987, some 1,200 of the country's 3,000 registered nurses have left work either through early retirement or to migrate to another country.

Trinidad and Tobago receives most of its foreign export income from sales of crude oil and refined petroleum products.

Last year, oil accounted for 25 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP).

The country, which has proved oil reserves of some 600 million barrels, operates two oil refineries at Point-a-Pierre and Point Fortin.

Slumping oil prices since 1982, however, have boosted unemployment and the government's budget deficit. Per capita income plunged from \$6,800 to \$3,000 during the past decade and unemployment soared from about nine per cent to 22 per cent.

Robinson had attempted to diversify the economy and restore economic growth by devaluing the currency and cutting salaries of civil servants by 10 per cent.

In 1989, the country exported \$1.57 billion worth of products, including oil, sugar, cocoa, coffee, methanol, iron and steel.

The country's central bank earlier this month released a report indicating that Trinidad and Tobago's seven-year economic decline might be nearing an end. The report said that GDP contracted by 1.2 per cent in 1989, compared with five per cent and 3.7 per cent in the previous two years.

Here are some facts and figures on Trinidad and Tobago:

The land

The island of Trinidad is in the Caribbean Sea about 12.8 kilometres (eight miles) north of northeast Venezuela. The smaller island of Tobago lies about 32 kilometres (20 miles) farther northeast. Together, they encompass 5,123 square kilometres (1,987 square miles) of land. The capital is Port-of-Spain. The terrain consists of plains and low mountains. The climate is tropical.

The people

The nation has a cosmopolitan population of about 1.3 million, with all but the 45,000 on Tobago residing on Trinidad. Most of the people are of African or East Indian origin. Trinidadians of mixed race make up slightly more than 16 per cent. Whites comprise 1.7 per cent.

PORT-OF-SPAIN, July 28, (Agencies): Troops today surrounded the parliament building where a black Muslim group is barricaded holding Prime Minister A. N. R. Robinson, the cabinet and other officials seized in a coup attempt.

At least three people were reported killed when the group, Jamaat Al Muslimin, stormed the parliament building while lawmakers were in session on Friday night. No government officials are known to have been hurt.

Premier Robinson ousted from rule

PORT-OF-SPAIN, July 28, (Reuter): Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister A. N. R. Robinson, said to have been ousted yesterday by a Black Muslim group, ended 30 years of rule by the People's National Movement (PNM) in 1986 elections promising to bring political and economic change to the Caribbean islands.

Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson, 63, came to power in a landslide victory in this multi-racial Caribbean island of 1.3 million people on Dec 16, 1986. The next elections were due by the end of 1991.

Robinson, who is of African descent and studied philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford University, broke with the country's tradition of voting along racial lines in 1986 by running as a candidate of an opposition coalition that embraced both Indian and African parties.

But he came under criticism from citizens of Indian descent, who account for 40.7 per cent of the population, when two years after his election he fired four Indian cabinet ministers who had criticised him for autocratic leadership.

His National Alliance for Reconstruction collapsed and, according to a recent opinion poll, the newly-formed breakaway United National Congress was poised to hold the balance of power in national polls due in December 1991.

Robinson had pledged that the major priorities of his first five-year term would be to restore growth to the economy, badly hit by falling oil prices, and end racial divisions.

An experienced politician ready to encourage business interests, Robinson attempted to diversify an economy whose dependence on oil led to a steep decline in living standards after the collapse of oil prices in the early 1980s.

Robinson, a British-trained lawyer, began his political career with the PNM and rose through party ranks to become number two to PNM founder Eric Williams. He was finance minister from 1961 to 1966 and foreign minister from 1966 to 1970.

At one stage he was seen as a possible successor to Williams but by 1970 he was out of the party.

His relations with the PNM soured over the government's apparent inability to act on a number of problems, including the handling of the "black power" race riots that year over unemployment and other economic ills, its failure to clamp down on corruption and what Williams saw as anxiety to succeed him.

The riots led to a state of emergency being imposed on April 21, 1970, and to a mutiny by the Trinidad regiment, 33 members of which were charged with treason.

Robinson, who was the PNM's deputy political leader and foreign minister at the time, said the government should have resigned.

His rift with the PNM may have been deepened because Williams' tight hold on power gave little leeway to such rising political stars as Robinson, former attorney-general Karl Hudson-Phillips and others.

The group, which also seized the state-run television station, released eight of the 20 captives after mediation by an Anglican priest. Those freed included two government ministers. The group threatened to harm the captives if the government moved against the TV station.

Deputy Prime Minister Winston Dookeran said the government was in control of the situation, which he described as "a mass kidnapping."

"We are victims at this time of extremists, particularly backed by Libya and other international hoodlums," Dookeran said during a television interview in which he appealed for all international help for the southern Caribbean nation.

Rebel leader Yasin Abu Bakr said in a morning television broadcast, however, that he had overthrown Robinson's government and charges were to be brought against him and members of his cabinet.

Police headquarters were set on fire early in the coup attempt. At dawn, several fires were visible for miles under towering plumes of black smoke.

Gunfire erupted sporadically in the streets of Port-of-Spain, a town of 60,000. The international airport has been closed since shortly after the coup attempt began.

Mark Allen, a government spokesman, told the Cable News Network there had been looting during the night.

"Things are very dangerous in downtown Port-of-Spain. There is sporadic shooting. And there are lots and lots of fires," he said.

The Muslim group, which is believed to have a membership of between 200 and 500, apparently contacted police and the army and arranged for a ceasefire to release their captives, the Caribbean News Agency (Cana) reported.

The group of eight captives was released from the parliament building at 6:10 am EDT (10:10 GMT), Cana said.

Hospitals of Port-of-Spain reported more than a dozen fatalities from overnight violence but an accurate count could not be immediately determined, Cana said.

Local radio reported that army troops were taking up positions at strategic points in the city, including the central bank, post office and state radio, and had surrounded the parliament building, known as the Red House.

Troops also blocked off some streets in the central area with barricades.

State-run radio said Anglican priest Canon Knolly Clarke, who had been mediating the standoff between the armed rebels and the government, left parliament with Dookeran for talks with Abu Bakr at an undisclosed location.

Trinidad and Tobago, a twin-island oil-producing Commonwealth republic off Venezuela, has been hit hard by a fall in the price of oil and unemployment has hit 20 per cent. Robinson has imposed unpopular austerity measures to halt economic decline in the nation of 1.3 million people.

The acting president of Trinidad, Emanuel Carter, declared in a pre-dawn radio broadcast that the government was in control.

"The legally constituted Trinidad and Tobago government is still very much in charge of the situation in the country," said Carter, who was filling in while President Noor Hassan Ali was on vacation in Britain.



'Prisoner of war'

Members of Alpha 66, the anti-Castro Cuban guerrillas, take a 'prisoner of war' during training exercises in their camp in the Florida Everglades on June 3. The 'prisoner', 38-year-old Roberto de la Torre, spent three years in the Cuban army and came to the US during the 1980 Mariel boatlift. (Reuter wirephoto)

Fujimori marks double festivities

Inauguration, birthday

LIMA, July 28, (Reuter): During World War Two, young Alberto Fujimori looked on as Peruvian nationalist thugs burst into his father's tyre shop in Lima, looting and setting it on fire.

Like thousands of other Japanese immigrants, his father was the victim of persecution by Peruvians who feared they were spies sent by Tokyo to set up a beachhead in Latin America.

Nearly 50 years later, Peru's small but prosperous Japanese community can claim a triumph in Fujimori's extraordinary rise from political obscurity to his inauguration as president today — his 52nd birthday.

"If my father were alive today, I'm sure he would say to me, 'That was so long ago, it has no importance now,'" Fujimori said, in the conciliatory tone he uses when speaking of the class and racial divisions that still rend Peruvian society.

Members of the 70,000-strong community, the largest in Latin America after Brazil, said they were proud of Fujimori but worried about the possible pitfalls of his presidency.

"If he fails, will people take their anger out on the Japanese?" said Amelia Morimoto, an anthropologist. "Anything can happen in Peru, but naturally people are proud."

Japanese began emigrating to Peru in the 1890s, seeking a new life at a time when times were hard in Japan.

Fujimori's campaign for the presidency sparked outbursts of anti-Asian racism from some supporters of his main opponent, novelist Mario Vargas Llosa.

Despite protests by Vargas Llosa, some of his followers responded to Fujimori's June election victory by gathering outside the novelist's home to chant: "Out with the filthy oriental!" and "Mario is Peruvian, the oriental is a Martian."

Fujimori has said some top military officers dislike him because of his Japanese ancestry, but he added that he feared no disloyalty in the armed forces because of his race.

"Fujimori is a foreigner of first-generation Japanese origin ... who doesn't have any dead relatives buried here," military leader Francisco Morales Bermudez said before the vote, summing up nationalist sentiments among some officers.

But Fujimori has insisted that only a small but vocal minority of Peruvians are anti-Japanese, citing his overwhelming victory over Vargas Llosa as proof.

"The Peruvian people were presented with this anti-Asian feeling during the campaign, and



Alberto Fujimori assumed the Peruvian presidency yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)

they passed the rest of the show," he said recently. Apart from transcending the racism, Fujimori must grapple with enormous problems — a crippled economy, four-digit inflation and leftist guerrilla violence that has cost 20,000 lives in the past decade.

Latin American leaders streamed into Peru yesterday for Fujimori's inauguration under tight security.

Outgoing President Alan Garcia, on the last full day of his crisis-ridden government, met the presidents of Venezuela, Argentina, Chile and Bolivia at Lima's Jorge Chavez airport.

Argentine President Carlos Menem parried questions on whether he would be willing to mediate between Cuba and Spain, as the Buenos Aires press has reported.

"We'll talk about that later," Menem told reporters on his arrival.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, whom a Cuban statement last week called ignorant, arrived to lead Spain's delegation to the ceremonies.

One dignitary will certainly not be attending: Mario Vargas Llosa, one of Latin America's most illustrious novelists and Fujimori's defeated elections opponent, who said in a published interview that he will receive a literary prize in Sicily on inauguration day.

"It's a coincidence of dates that strikes me as a kind of compensation for the ill-fated presidential election," said Vargas Llosa in an interview yesterday in the Lima daily El Comercio.

Castro cancels trip to Peru

LIMA, July 28, (Reuter): Cuban leader Fidel Castro, his government caught in a diplomatic row with Spain over Cuban asylum-seekers, yesterday cancelled plans to attend Peruvian President-elect Alberto Fujimori's inauguration. Peruvian Foreign Ministry officials said.

Other Latin American leaders streamed into Lima to attend the inauguration today under tight security, with thousands of police and army soldiers patrolling the capital on the eve of the swearing-in.

The head of the Cuban delegation, President of the National Assembly Juan Escalona, said Castro was very sorry that he could not attend the inauguration, the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina reported.

At the time the last report came, the possibility of the Cuban leader being present was being studied, but the enormous responsibilities that he has at this very important moment for his country led to the decision to send a representative delegation. Prensa Latina quoted Escalona as saying.

Castro's government has been embroiled in a dispute with Spain over asylum-seekers in the Spanish Embassy in Havana.

The Cuban delegation to Peru included Manuel Pinciro, head of the Americas Department of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, and Lazaro Mora, head of the Latin American Department of the Foreign Ministry.

Both the Cuban Embassy and Peru's Prime Minister Guillermo Larco Cox had said this week that Castro would attend.

His cancellation looked likely to disappoint local leftists who had planned street marches and ceremonies to greet him. Lima's San Marcos University had planned to grant him an honorary doctorate.

Outgoing President Alan Garcia, on the last full day of his crisis-ridden government, met the presidents of Chile, Bolivia, Argentina and Venezuela at Lima's Jorge Chavez airport.

Colombian President Virgilio Barco was due to arrive today. In Washington the United States, worried about a possible wave of Cuban refugees, sharply rejecting Castro's call for US ships to come and pick up Cubans unhappy with his rule.

The State Department also said it had launched an official protest with Cuba for accusing the United States of inciting dozens of Cubans to seek asylum in foreign embassies in Havana in recent days.

Castro, in a lengthy speech Thursday night marking the 37th anniversary of his revolution, cited the testimony of a Cuban dissident who said the United States has started encouraging the asylum seekers last March.

US officials are still haunted by the wave of asylum seekers who flooded the Peruvian Embassy in Havana in 1980, sparking the disastrous Mariel Boatlift in which 125,000 Cubans fled to the United States.

The State Department said it rejects "Castro's attempts to export his internal problems to the United States by encouraging Cubans to leave. Cuba's problems must be resolved at home through democratic process and freedom of speech."

Officials said they were concerned that many Cubans, disgruntled by rising prices, shortages and unemployment, might take Castro up on his suggestion they leave for the United States.

Brazil rejects charges: Brazilian Justice Minister Bernardo Cabral on Friday dismissed reports by human rights groups of police torture and increased death squad activity and said they were outdated.

Amnesty International reported in June that death squads were once again a "day-to-day occurrence" in Brazil and condemned President Fernando Collor de Mello's elected government for failing to tackle the problem.

Cabral told a news conference that Amnesty's allegations were based on outdated information. (Reuter)

11 skeletons found: Police have discovered what could be a burial ground for death-squad victims near Rio de Janeiro's most famous symbol, its hilltop statue of Jesus with outstretched arms, Brazilian television said on Friday.

Eleven skeletons were found hidden under the thick forest vegetation several hundred metres from a road that winds through the Tijuca Forest and ends at the statue atop Rio's highest hill.

Brazilian television showed on Friday night the skulls and piles of bones that police found after being tipped off by an anonymous phone call. (Reuter)

83 die in violence: Eighty-three people were assassinated in Guatemala in the past month, up from a monthly average of 27 in the previous six months of the year, an official of the government's human-rights office said on Friday.

These killings "refer to acts of arbitrary and illegal physical elimination by individuals belonging to repressive forces," Cesar Alvarez Guadamuz said in an interview. (Reuter)

Ortega to be replaced: Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro said she will replace army leader General Humberto Ortega "at any moment," citing the decision as evidence of her independence from leftist Sandinista opposition.

In televised statements late on Thursday Chamorro said General Ortega's role in her government had always been temporary and that the army leader was under her control.

Haiti security needed: Unless the United Nations agrees to provide a substantial number of election observers, it is unlikely that Haiti will be able to hold free elections as scheduled in November, according to a top aide to former US president Jimmy Carter.

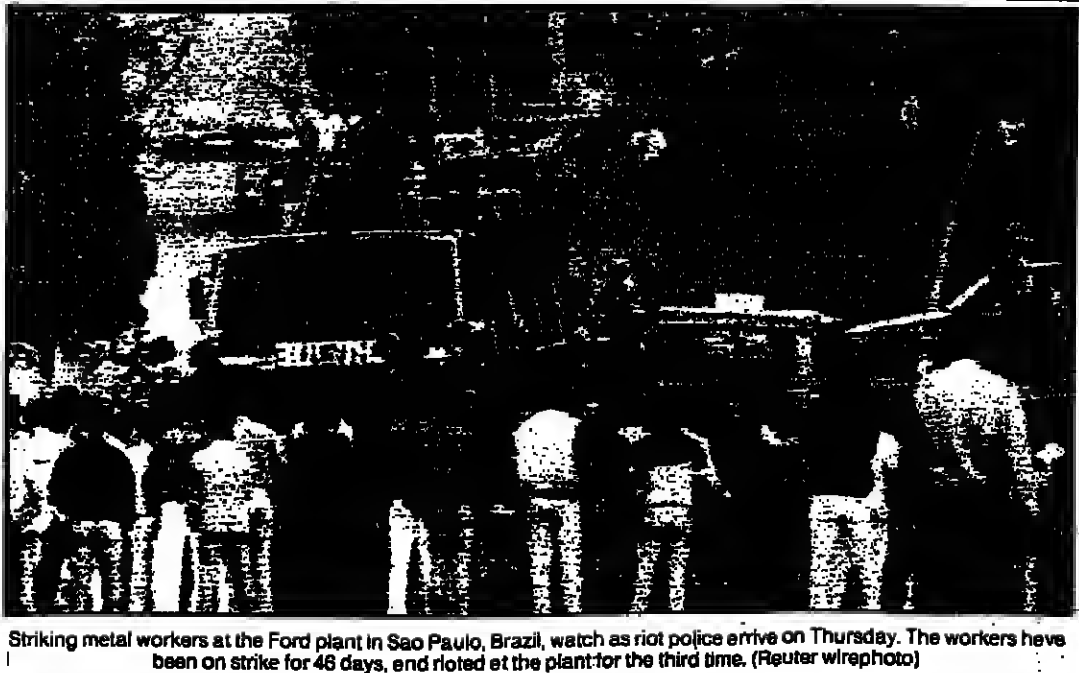
Robert Pastor, director of Latin American programmes at the Carter Centre, returned on Friday with Carter from a 36-hour trip to the island nation where the former president agreed to monitor elections tentatively scheduled for November 4. (Reuter)

Noriega co-defendant held: A co-defendant in the drug-trafficking case of former Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega was arrested at an exclusive home once owned by former president Richard Nixon, police said Friday.

Roberto Steiner, alleged pilot for the Medellin cartel, was arrested Thursday and a small cache of weapons confiscated at the Key Biscayne mansion, said John S. Fernandez, spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration in Miami. (UPI)

Grave to be exhumed: A mass grave containing bodies of Panamanians killed during the US invasion last December will be exhumed over the weekend, head of a group of war widows said Friday.

Isabel Corro, who heads a group of war widows, said he did not know how many bodies are buried in the grave but estimated it may contain up to 60 bodies. (UPI)



Striking metal workers at the Ford plant in Sao Paulo, Brazil, watch as riot police arrive on Thursday. The workers have been on strike for 46 days, and rioted at the plant for the third time. (Reuter wirephoto)

فوز على الفساد

Summer drought killed dozens of people

Mediterranean nations broil

PARIS, July 28, (AP): Across the Mediterranean basin, a blistering summer drought has killed dozens of people, destroyed crops, dried up rivers, sparked water wars and forced tight rationing.

French farmers are sabotaging water pumps that supply city dwellers. A two-month heat wave left 38 people dead in Algeria. Half of Italy's olive crop has been destroyed. Residents of Istanbul, Turkey, are limited to four hours of water a day.

In Greece, the drought is the worst in 100 years, forcing the government to raise water prices 300 percent to bring a 15 percent drop in consumption from a parched populace.

Supertankers are shipping water to hard-hit Greek coastal areas and geologists drilling for fresh supplies. Agricultural co-operatives say farmers have sus-

tained losses of 300 billion drachmas (\$2 billion).

The Greek government plans to divert the Central Evros River to replenish reservoirs around Athens, where the current supply would last only 98 days.

Much of France is suffering a second year of drought. A heat wave last weekend claimed five lives, including a farmer who dropped dead while installing irrigation equipment.

A persistent Atlantic high-pressure system has held rainfall in Normandy and the entire southern third of the country to 50 percent below average. Dozens of towns have banned lawn watering and car washing.

"In the regions of France where it's dry, it's the driest for 10 years," meteorologist Guy La Riviere of the National Weather

Service said yesterday.

Officials in the southwestern Aude region, where rationing has been in effect since 1989, report anxious farmers illegally diverting water to save corn and sunflower crops.

Farmers occasionally sabotage public water pumps that they believe steal water from their sun-baked fields, officials said.

"The acts become more dramatic as the situation gets more urgent," said Jean-Pierre Monod, president of a farming co-operative.

Lack of rain has dried major rivers like the Loire, Rhone and Garonne to up to half their normal levels. When temperatures in the Garonne climbed to 28 degrees (82 Fahrenheit) Monday, the Goffech nuclear power plant shut down as managers

Droughts leave Peruvians thirsty, dirty and sick

CRUZ DE MOTUPE, Peru, July 28, (AP): Every morning, Natividad Hancoo Cerna walks an hour across brown sand to fill two buckets with dirty water.

Mrs Hancoo steps carefully as she returns to her thatched house on a barren hill. The daily ration of two buckets is all the water she and her two small children have for drinking, cooking and bathing.

"We live worse than animals," she said, holding her son's scab-covered hand. "Sometimes I cry all day from anger."

Until early this year, trucks brought water to Mrs Hancoo's house in a shantytown outside Lima. Now, with Peru suffering its worst drought of the century, the trucks are delivering water to richer neighborhoods that have gone dry.

Most of Lima's 7 million people are affected. Even upper-class neighborhoods go entire days without water.

Clothing, dishes and food cannot be washed. Toilets are not flushed. Bathrooms are covered in dust.

The poor suffer most.

"People are dying out here," said Dr Rafael

ruled the water was too hot to cool the reactor.

Across the Mediterranean in Algeria, a two-month heat wave

has been blamed for 38 deaths in the southern city of Ain Salah. Temperatures consistently hung at 40 degrees (104 Fahrenheit).

In Algiers, residents stockpiled jerrycans of water and braced for a government-ordered suspension of supplies

Sunday and Monday. Water reserves have dropped by two-thirds in the capital over the past two years.

Medina, one of three doctors who care for the 22,000 people living in or near Cruz De Motupe. Like the rest of the shantytown's shanty buildings, Medina's clinic has no electricity or telephone. Slogans scrawled in red paint by members of the Maoist guerrilla group Shining Path cover its cinder block walls.

"These people don't even have enough fuel to boil the water, and the water is filthy," Medina said.

Intestinal disease has risen 52 percent this year in Cruz De Motupe, and similar increases had been recorded in Lima's many other shantytowns, according to Camelia Plackner, a Health Ministry official.

Peru already has one of the world's worst rates of infant mortality — 81 per 1,000 — mostly due to intestinal disease.

Thousands of poor people recently marched through downtown Lima to demand water.

"Water is a right and not a privilege," many of their banners said.

The government says there is little it can do. Lima is in the middle of a desert and rain is rare. Most of the city's water comes from the Rimac

River, which is fed by mountain streams, and a drought in the southern Andes has left the streams nearly dry.

According to the meteorological service, the drought is caused by a change in the winds that usually bring moist sea air to the mountains.

Decades of neglect of Peru's infrastructure make the situation worse. Not only has the water supply been cut in half, the city water company said, but 48 per cent of that seeps into the ground or spills into the ocean through broken pipes.

Three reservoir projects first proposed in the late 1960s have been abandoned.

Other basic services also have collapsed because of the drought.

Lima's power comes from five hydroelectric plants. It is being rationed, and the daily outages in turn affect the water company's ability to move water and operate wells.

Reservoirs built to run the hydroelectric plants during the dry season now supply much of the capital's water.

An emergency well-digging programme has helped, but ground water levels are dropping rapidly.

Kodak offered to check mirrors

WASHINGTON, July 28, (AP): An unsuccessful Eastman Kodak bid to make the Hubble space telescope mirrors called for a second company to double-check the grinding and polishing, a provision not offered by low bidder Perkin-Elmer, the firm that produced the flawed Hubble mirror.

The Kodak bid submitted to the US space agency for manufacture of the Hubble mirrors called for Kodak to make one primary mirror within its plant and for Itek Optical Systems to make an identical primary mirror at another plant.

In its proposal, Kodak said the two mirrors and the different testing systems of the two companies could be used to verify the prescription: One of the two primary mirrors would then be used in the Hubble space telescope.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials, however, awarded the contract to Perkin-Elmer. The Danbury, Connecticut, firm, now known as Hughes Danbury Optical Systems, did its own mirror grinding and polishing and used its own personnel and equipment to check the prescriptions.

Perkin-Elmer's winning bid was \$64.28 million. Kodak's proposal was for \$99.79 million. Through overruns, the Perkin-Elmer contract climbed to an eventual total of \$451 million.

Augustine to head US space panel

WASHINGTON, July 28, (AP): The administration of President George Bush named a veteran Aerospace executive Wednesday to head an independent committee that will review NASA's plans for the future of the US space programme.

The committee, under chairman Norman R. Augustine, will report its findings in four months. Its mandate is to look into all phases of the space programme and make recommendations for alternate approaches when appropriate.

Augustine has been chairman and chief executive officer of the Martin Marietta Corp., which builds the Titan series of rockets among its many space-related activities.

Augustine was the only appointee named in an announcement by Vice President Dan Quayle, who is head of the National Space Council.



Thatcher visits cathedral

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is shown a bust of herself by 52-year-old deaf Liverpool sculptor Jimmy McLaughlin while visiting Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral July 27. (Reuter wirephoto)

First nun killed buried End N. Ireland terrorism: Pope

MIDDLETON, Northern Ireland, July 28, (AP): The first nun killed in 21 years of Northern Ireland's troubles was buried yesterday following a message from Pope John Paul II condemning "the grievous injustice and futility of terrorism."

Political leaders of Ireland and Northern Ireland joined with family and friends at a small country church along the Irish border for the requiem mass for Sister Catherine Dunne, 37, who was killed by an Irish Republican Army bomb.

The mourners included representatives of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, which lost three men in the same attack — William Hanson, 37, Joshua Cyril Willis, 35, who were buried Thursday, and David Sterritt, 34, who was buried later Friday with full police honours.

A prayer was said for social worker Cathy McCann, 25, who was in the car with sister Catherine and is recovering from injuries suffered in the explosion.

Dean Francis McLarnon, a Roman Catholic diocesan administrator in Armagh, read a message from the Vatican saying

that the Pope was "deeply shocked and saddened" by the deaths on Tuesday.

John Paul "implores God's peace on Northern Ireland, and appeals to the men and women who espouse violence to recognise the grievous injustice and futility of terrorism," the message said.

Several hundred people crowded into the old stone church and dozens more stood outside sheltering under umbrellas. Among them were Sister Catherine's parents, John and Peggy, brothers Sean and Liam and sister Ann.

Girls from St. Joseph's Training School, where Sister Catherine was deputy director, lined the pathway through the church grounds, many weeping.

In his homily, McLarnon referred to negotiations now under way in Northern Ireland to bring the main political parties together to seek a political settlement.

Peter Brooke, the top British official in Northern Ireland, has missed two self-imposed deadlines for announcing agreement on negotiations.

UK plans Royal Navy cuts

LONDON, July 28, (KUNA): Immediate reductions in the UK Royal Navy's frigates and submarine fleets are to be announced by Britain's Defence Secretary Tom King next week, it was reported here today.

More than three of the British Navy's ageing Leander class frigates and a number of diesel-powered Oberon class submarines are expected to be laid off.

The cuts are part of a £600 million cost-cutting exercise made necessary because of higher-than-expected UK inflation.

This year's UK defence budget had a built-in allowance for five per cent inflation, but the true figure is now close to 10 per cent, the media here noted.

It pointed out that King has already announced plans to save cash by cancelling the final batch order of 33 Tornado jet fighters for the Royal Air Force and a new anti-armour bomb, which would have been deployed on Halber jump jets against enemy tanks.

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Call on world to save the children

PRINCETON, New Jersey, July 28, (UPI): More than 150 religious leaders, including Muslims and Jews, Christians and Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs, called on the world's governments yesterday to save children "from economic exploitation and needless death."

The World's Religions for the World's Children conference attracted religious leaders from 28 countries who met at Princeton theological seminary as a prelude to the United Nations World Summit for Children set for September 29-30.

The assembled leaders heard grim testimony on the plight of children in under-developed countries and in the ghettos of the world's cities.

United Secretary James Grant, who chaired the conference, said more than 40,000 children died each day for want of simple vaccines, sanitation, or food.

Religious representatives from 25 countries set aside their differences to study the problems facing the world's youngsters.

The final day of the conference ended with the group issuing a declaration and action plan which they plan to present to the UN in September.

The document calls on government to:

- Divert at least 10-15 per cent of military spending to helping children.
- Sign, ratify, and monitor compliance with the convention on the rights of the child, an international agreement protecting children.
- Provide basic health care and education to all children.
- Take action to stop economic exploitation of children and child abuse.
- Undertake actions to promote the well-being, education, and leadership roles of female children and their right to equal treatment with male children.
- Re-order community resources in accord with the principle of the right of children to a first call on resources.

The clerics also called on religious bodies to focus more attention on the role of organized religion in helping children.

"Our common voice resounds despite differences in our traditions, our practices, our beliefs, and despite our inadequacies. Our religious traditions summon us to regard the child as more than a legal entity, but as a transformer of society," a statement released by the religious leaders said.

The delegates also called for a time of world-wide prayer and fasting combined with individual donations towards ending the poverty of children throughout the world on the weekend of September 21-23.

Safe way to tell baby's sex

LONDON, July 28, (Reuter): Australian doctors say they have found a safer way to determine the sex of unborn babies and possibly diagnose inherited disorders.

In the new technique, reported in the British medical magazine The Lancet yesterday, doctors plucked foetal cells from the mother's blood instead of plunging needles into the placenta to extract them.

By amplifying genetic material, or DNA, from the cells, the researchers from Flinders University in South Australia said they were able to determine the baby's sex in 12 of 13 cases.

"Isolation of these foetal cells could allow non-invasive diagnosis of a wide range of inherited disorders," the article added.

Bentley deemed authentic: A British judge ruled Friday that the "Old Number One" Bentley is authentic despite numerous alterations during its favoured history as a racer, and ordered a car company to pay £10 million (\$18.3 million) for the vehicle.

The former highest price ever paid for a used car was \$8.1 million, and the decision will have implications for the values of other classic vehicles because the judge ruled at the end of a 13-day hearing that a car's history is an innate part of its identity.

Edward Hubbard, 59, the owner of the bright red car that entered racing in 1929, used the vehicle in a deal to purchase Middlebridge Scimitar, a car company he wished to buy to realise his plans to manufacture an amphibious vehicle.

Middlebridge Scimitar agreed to take possession of the grand Bentley in exchange for being taken over by Hubbard for an estimated worth of £3.2 million (\$5.25 million), and to pay the car collector £6.8 million (\$12.4 million). (UPI)

Fergie to visit stepfather: The Duchess of York plans to fly to Argentina Saturday evening with her two daughters to visit her gravely ill stepfather, Hector Barrantes. Buckingham Palace said Friday.

The duchess, the former Sarah Ferguson, is making the trip on the advice of his doctors, the palace said.

Barrantes, 51, was diagnosed as having lymphoma in February.

After undergoing chemotherapy in New York, Barrantes returned to his 1,000-acre (400-hectare) ranch, located 250 miles (400 miles) from Buenos Aires, where he breeds polo ponies.

The duchess, wife of Queen Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew, will travel on a scheduled British Airways flight from Heathrow with Princess Beatrice, who will be 2 next month, 4-month-old Princess Eugenie, the children's nanny Alison Wardley and a personal detective. (AP)

New recruits

Judy Garcia holds an AR 15 semi-automatic rifle as she listens to instructors at an Alpha 66 training session at the anti-Castro Cuban guerrillas' camp in the Florida Everglades June 3.

(Reuter wirephoto)

Record compensation: An Airline pilot who was paralysed in a fall from a motor-cycle accident was awarded record damages of \$1.6 million (\$2.9 million) by a British court on Friday.

Devon County Council in southwest England was ordered to pay the personal injury damages to John Lambert, 42, after the High

Court ruled that it had failed to maintain the road where the accident occurred nine years ago.

Lambert's motorcycle failed to negotiate a sharp bend and plunged down a steep incline. The accident ended his career as a pilot for Royal Air Maroc. (Reuter)

Florida killer executed: A killer who stabbed, raped and robbed a woman was executed Friday evening after the US Supreme Court rejected claims that Florida's electric chair wasn't working properly.

The execution of Anthony Bertolotti, 38, was carried out without any sign of problems, the governor's office said.

The Supreme Court, agreeing with lower courts that the chair was working properly, rejected Bertolotti's last appeal about 30 minutes before he died at 7:07 pm.

A dozen death-penalty supporters staged a demonstration in a pasture across from the Florida state prison near Starke while a man and woman apparently opposed to capital punishment stood in an adjacent field as the sentence was carried out. (AP)

Flat car, not flat tyre: Luther Johnson said his tractor-trailer was handling strangely. Heading up interstate 390 south of Rochester Thursday morning, Johnson thought maybe he had a flat tyre. So he pulled over, hopped out of his rig and walked around the front to have a look.

"It wasn't a flat tyre. It was a small car caught under the huge truck bumper. Driver Stephen Spring was still inside, looking a little confused. Witnesses said, 'Morgan County sheriff's deputies the truck pushed the car up the highway for about a mile (1.5 km)' all the while maintaining the legal speed limit."

Spring said he had dropped his fiancée off at work and was headed home. He had no idea how he got stuck underneath a tractor-trailer truck; deputies said. (UPI)

Mohawks consider new proposals by Canadian, Quebec governments

MONTREAL, July 28, (UPI): Mohawk leaders were sceptical last night as they considered Canadian and Quebec government proposals aimed at settling two lengthy armed standoffs over Indian land claims.

Meanwhile, a Quebec government spokesman said that a Quebec policeman killed July 11 in an abortive swat raid on one of the barricades was not killed by a police bullet.

Quebec Indian Affairs Minister John Caccia

offered yesterday afternoon to withdraw police who are surrounding the Kanasatake and Kahnawake Indian reserves and invited Mohawks to participate in a coroner's inquest into the death of Quebec police Cpl. Marcel Lemay.

In return, the Mohawks must take down the barricades and give up their arsenal of weapons that include fully automatic rifles, Caccia said.

Spokesmen for Mohawk leaders at the Kanasatake Reserve near Oka said Caccia's

proposals is being studied.

Caccia urged Mohawks to follow Indian tradition and place their weapons in a "safe enclosure" under the supervision of a joint commission that could include Indians.

Caccia said that under Kanesamakwa, the great law of peace, the centuries-old Iroquois confederacy was born when all weapons were buried under the great tree of peace.

"Quebec is extending its hand peacefully to the Mohawk nation," Caccia said.

Caccia has respected Indian tradition since the standoffs began, for example, stopping negotiations at nightfall to follow Indian custom.

Caccia also repeated earlier comments that the federal government must become involved in resolving longstanding social and economic problems in the area.

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Aquino has gained respite from political problems, insurgency

Philippine govt faces major challenge in quake recovery

MANILA, July 28, (AP): The July 16 earthquake has silenced President Corason Aquino's opponents temporarily, but sets the stage for deeper crises if her government is not effective in handling the recovery.

The quake, which killed more than 1,600 people, also may affect the outcome of talks on the future of the six US military bases in the Philippines. The government relied heavily on US resources in the first critical hours.

"Some governments have turned disasters like this to their advantage," a Western diplomat said, on condition of anonymity.

"This could be an opportunity for them to show they're a functioning government, but it easily could turn into a real mess," he added.

Because of the earthquake, Aquino appears to have gained a respite from political problems in Congress and challenges both

from Marxist insurgents and military dissidents responsible for six coup attempts.

Before the tremor, the executive and legislative branches were heading for a collision over her establishment of a new political movement, Kasbisig, aimed at bypassing political parties.

Congress set aside those differences and quickly approved administration requests for 10 billion pesos (\$440,000) in emergency funds. In turn, the Aquino administration accepted congressional demands that debt relief be sought from foreign creditors.

Temporary unilateral truces were announced by the Communist New People's Army and the dissident reform Armed Forces Movement.

Relief operations appear to have improved, but serious problems persist two weeks after

the quake.

Many foreign relief shipments were tied up in customs awaiting clearance and payment of duty. Reporters who visited affected areas said local officials delayed deliveries by repacking relief supplies in order to take credit for them.

Under the best of conditions, the Philippines faces a massive recovery that, by some estimates, could take more than a decade.

Bridges on major transport arteries collapsed. More than 80,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed. More than 110,000 people were left homeless.

Officials of the Public Works Department say the commercial district of Dagupan, a city of more than 100,000 residents, needs to be relocated because it sank by about nine feet (three metres).

The emergency dramatised all the administrative weaknesses for which Aquino has been criticised since taking office in the 1986 "people power revolution" that ousted the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

Filipino and foreign analysts question the government's ability to manage recovery and curb public discontent if the deficiencies are not corrected.

With power centralised in Manila, local officials lacked the resources and authority to run effective rescue operations.

Because the quake occurred at 4:30 pm, many government employees simply went home, making it difficult for local officials to contact Manila for help. The central government did not know the extent of the damage for hours because the neglected communications system functions poorly.

Government rescuers did not reach some devastated areas of Nueva Vizcaya province until four days after the quake. Local officials found themselves trying to cope with a major disaster without cranes, medicine, transport or trained medics.

It was the private sector, not the government, that responded best. Commercial radio stations alerted rescuers to areas of greatest need.

Cadets of the Philippine Military Academy carried out the first rescue operations in Baguio, where nearly 400 people were killed. The cadets were helped by gold miners who heard radio reports of the devastation and walked miles over steep mountains to volunteer.

Some critics fear that, despite a reservoir of public goodwill, Aquino lacks the flair and

sense of drama needed to rally the country.

She had an opportunity to display decisive leadership in her state of the nation address to Congress, delivered one week after the quake.

Many hoped for a rousing call to arms, but it was a plodding, desultory speech, interrupted by applause.

Diplomatic sources said the government was slow in requesting foreign help. A US rescue team was in the air from Andrews Air Force Base before a formal request for assistance was received.

Richard Gordon, mayor of Olongapo and a Red Cross official, approached the US Navy at Subic Bay for help. Gordon used a commercial radio station to co-ordinate aid with the mayor of Cabanatuan, where a school collapsed, killing more than 130 people.



Communist Party Chief G. Orchibat (centre) talks to supporters during an election rally July 27 in Ulan Bator. (Reuters wirephoto)



Mongolian soldiers drill at an army base outside Ulan Bator July 28. (Reuters wirephoto)

Campaigning ends in Mongolia

Communists expected to gain comfortable victory in first free polls

ULAN BATOR, July 28, (Reuters): With rock bands and banners of Genghis Khan, Mongolia's fledgling opposition parties ended their campaign against the ruling communists for tomorrow's final round of the nation's first free elections.

The communists, unchallenged in power for 69 years, are expected to gain a comfortable victory in the upper house of parliament, the Great People's Hural. But an opinion poll suggested that a coalition of the three main opposition parties could win a majority in the yet-to-be-formed but important lower house, the Small Hural.

Opposition party organisers spent today printing posters on equipment brought in by two members of the Police Solidarity movement. One poster showed US Secretary of State James Baker, due in Mongolia next week, saying that truth was good.

Rival party newspapers beseeched the widely-scattered voters in a land the size of Western Europe with stirring rhetoric.

"Blue Mongolia of the blue sky is awakening from its nightmare. The tough, grey days are fleeing and a new era symbolising freedom and hope is dawning," said the newspaper of the New Progressive Party (NPP) on its front page.

The Communist Party newspaper Unen made a more direct appeal to the nomadic herdsmen who comprise about 40 per cent of the population and live in remote areas untroubled by the winds of democratic change.

"The Communist Party is the party of cattle breeders," Unen said in a banner headline, adding that democracy, equal opportunity and fairness formed the party's creed.

Mongolia, wedged between the Soviet Union and China, has been communist since 1921 when the Soviet Red Army invaded and installed a government loyal to Lenin. But Moscow has now banded back the reins of power to the poor nation of grassland steppes.

UK bid for HK passports rejected

BEIJING, July 28, (Reuters): China said today Britain's plan to give full passports to up to 225,000 people in Hong Kong was unacceptable and warned off possible retaliation.

It also accused the British side contravenes the spirit and essence of the Sino-British joint declaration and impairs China's sovereignty," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"It is something unacceptable to the Chinese government," it said. The law created confusion in Hong Kong and was detrimental to stability and a smooth transfer of power. It said China would not recognise the new passports.

"The Chinese government reserves the right to take further measures at an appropriate time in response to the erroneous action of the British side," it said in the statement issued by the official New China News Agency and broadcast prominently on the main evening television news.

Beijing has in the past attacked the plan, part of British government efforts to shore up sagging confidence in Hong Kong's future under Chinese rule.

But the latest outburst followed by only one day a British ministerial visit aimed at repairing strained ties with China.

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman dismissed China's attack as a "well-known position which they've stated before."

Britain plans to give full British nationality to 50,000 key Hong Kong people and their families, a total of up to 225,000 people.

In 1984, China and Britain signed an accord handing Hong Kong back to Chinese rule but guaranteeing a high degree of autonomy to the colony after the transfer of power.

Hong Kong is to become a "Special Administrative Region" of China that will retain its capitalist system for 50 years after the British flag is lowered for the last time on June 30, 1997.



Two Japanese girls smile as a tropical fish swims in a large aquarium exhibited on a Tokyo street corner July 28. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kaifu stresses need for normalising ties

Soviet Union, North Korea

KARUIZAWA, Japan, July 28, (Reuters): Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said today that Tokyo would normalise ties with North Korea and the Soviet Union.

"We are ready to help the Soviet Union build a market economy," he told 300 participants at a seminar of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in this mountain resort north of Tokyo. "And the Soviet Union recognises us as a major trading partner."

Kaifu warned delegates they should not be swayed by a series of conflicting statements from Kremlin leaders on a territorial dispute over ownership of four small Soviet-held islands north of Japan.

On Thursday, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told Japan's lower house speaker, Yoshio Sasaki, in Moscow that such a dispute did not exist between the two countries and that he would not make a scheduled visit to Japan if it threatened to be counter-productive, Japanese media reports said.

Yesterday, Gorbachev told Daisaku Ikeda, head of a large

Japanese Buddhist organisation, that he was ready for a "substantial compromise" with Japan and said he would like to come to Tokyo next April, local media reported.

Japan should not place overwhelming importance on the islands and instead pursue a policy of expanding overall ties with Moscow, Kaifu told a group of newspaper editors yesterday.

Kaifu welcomed North Korea's initiative in allowing a visit by an LDP delegation in September, the first time Pyongyang has agreed to direct contacts with Japan's ruling party.

The North Korean agreement came earlier this week in talks in Pyongyang with members of a Japan Socialist Party delegation, traditional North Korean allies in Japan.

The agreement to open a channel through the LDP indicated the Pyongyang government was ready for a compromise on the issue of two Japanese sailors held on espionage charges since 1983, Kaifu said.

Dissidents allowed to visit Pyongyang

SEOUL, July 28, (Reuters): South Korea said today it would conditionally allow dissidents to make an unprecedented joint Independence Day rally at the border next month.

Official squabbling over procedural details scrubbed a Seoul meeting scheduled for Thursday and yesterday at which North Korean officials and the Chominyon dissident coalition were to discuss the rally.

After the five-member North Korean delegation abandoned its attempt to cross to the South at the border village of Panmunjom yesterday, Chominyon dissidents and representatives of overseas Koreans immediately made a proposal for a meeting in Pyongyang on August 6.

The North, meanwhile, accused the Seoul government of trying to block the rally and offered to hold talks next Monday and Tuesday in Pyongyang.

"The government policy is to allow the visit to Pyongyang only when Southern delegates represent various segments of society, not only a particular group," South Korea's Vice Unification Minister Song Han-bol told reporters.

"Even if the delegation is composed of figures representing various sectors, authorities of the South and North must reach an accord to guarantee their safety," he said.

North Korea on Friday castigated the South for failing to accept a "rational compromise" on transport and accommodation after its delegation, accompanied by 10 reporters, tried in vain to cross the border for a second day.

The preparatory meeting in question was held on Friday, minus the North Koreans, at a private conference room in northern Seoul.

The election results from a democratic movement which surfaced last December following sweeping changes in Eastern Europe. The communists subsequently agreed to relinquish their guaranteed monopoly on power.

The campaign has been low-key, with parties differing only in degree on common promises of free-market capitalism, democracy, freedom, opening to the West and a revision of history distorted by a succession of despotic communist rulers.

But Communist Party chief Gombojav Ochirbat squared off against NPP candidate Dashpoin Ganbold on Saturday at a rally in their constituency — a jumble of Mongolian yurts (tents) on a hillside outside the capital, Ulan Bator.

"The Communist Party will make great efforts to solve the housing problem very soon," Ochirbat told a crowd of hundreds. The yurts have no running water or sewage facilities.

At the NPP camp nearby, banners of the 13th century Mongolian empire builder Genghis Khan — a hero now as then — flapped in a stiff breeze.

The NPP's rock band, Urga, almost drowned out speeches by their candidate and his communist rival as it belted out pro-democracy tunes on electric guitars.

A total 1.4 million of Mongolia's two million people are eligible to vote. They will choose from among 860 candidates for the 430-seat Great People's Hural and state party preferences to decide the allocation of the Small Hural's 53 seats.

An opinion poll by the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union, no longer controlled by the Communist Party, said 62 per cent of 600 people polled would vote for opposition parties in the Small Hural.

The Small Hural is expected to be in session almost permanently with the power to pass legislation pending approval by the president, diplomats and Mongolian officials said.

Asean withdraws threat to refugees

US proposal to be studied

JAKARTA, July 28, (Reuters): Southeast Asian nations today backed away from their threat to end asylum to boat people from Vietnam and began discussing alternatives to forcibly repatriating refugees.

The six-member Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) agreed to study a United States compromise on forced repatriation of thousands of refugees.

Asean, comprising Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, was responding to pressure from its main Pacific trading partners.

The proposal would create a vague category of refugees who "did not object" to being sent back. Western nations would also promise to solve by 1992 the problem of the estimated 120,000 boat people already waiting in squalid refugee camps.

"The point is that while there are sharp differences about existing formulas, there is a determination to find language acceptable to all," said Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark.

Malaysia, which has pushed thousands of refugees back to sea, said it was ready to discuss the compromise.

"I can assure you that we will study this proposal. But ... the reintegration of the Vietnamese boat people in their country must be done within the time frame agreed," said Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar.

Asean says most boat people are economic migrants looking for a better life, not true refugees. But the United States has opposed forced repatriation to Vietnam, which they regard as repressive.

The second day of talks with the US, Canada, Japan, the European Community, New Zealand and Australia, also focused on forming new security structures for Asia after the Cold War era.

Malaysia caused a stir by warning that Japan could replace the Soviet Union as the main military threat to the region.

But after US Secretary of State James Baker defended Japan, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama promised his country would never again use force against its neighbours.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans has proposed creating an Asian version of the Council on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). He also called for new security structures, saying conflicts in Asia were now a greater threat to world peace than Europe.

"There are a range of security issues that need to be discussed that are not being discussed," he said.

A senior US official said he did not expect an immediate response to the ideas, but predicted a heated debate in Asia on ways of handling regional security.

An expected showdown between Asean and the US on Cambodia failed to materialise. Baker appeared to have mollified Asian nations over Washington's recent withdrawal of support for the guerrilla coalition fighting the Communist government there.

The European Community announced today that it is prepared to set up a comprehensive programme for the repatriation of Indochinese boat people.



Baker (right) meets Indonesian President Suharto (left) July 28 at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta. (Reuters wirephoto)

Welcomes US overture

Hun Sen willing to negotiate

WASHINGTON, July 28, (AP): Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said yesterday that he is willing to negotiate with the United States about holding elections in his country.

He spoke as Secretary of State James Baker told the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that the United States is considering direct contacts with the Cambodian government. Baker spoke to the organisation known as Asean yesterday in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Hun Sen, in an interview from Asia with National Public Radio, also said he welcomed the US decision to hold direct talks with Vietnam on resolving the civil war in his country, but he warned against intervention in Cambodia's affairs.

The United States, shifting long-standing policy, announced last

week that it would hold talks next month with the communist government of Vietnam, the patron of the Hun Sen government. The United States also decided to withhold diplomatic recognition at the United Nations from the three-party coalition fighting to topple the Cambodian government.

"I welcome the negotiations between the USA and Vietnam over Cambodia," Hun Sen said. "But I think they have to admit the fact that the issue of the domestic problem of Cambodia must be resolved only by the people of Cambodia," he added.

Plans for a meeting of the three Cambodian guerrilla groups in Paris next week have been shelved because the Khmer Rouge appears not to want to take part, a guerrilla spokesman in Bangkok said today. (Reuters)

In search of 'Doolittle Raiders'

US group to look for missing planes in China

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minnesota, July 28, (AP): Forty-eight years after a group of American pilots known as Doolittle's Raiders pierced the skies of Japan during World War II, the squadron's navigator is helping search for planes that crashed.

Retired Col. Henry A. Potter said yesterday he will join the search in China's Zhejiang province, where his B-25 bomber and four others went down after their famous mission of April 18, 1942 — the first successful air raid against Japan during World War II.

The 16-plane squadron from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet boosted the morale of the American public following the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. The plane flown by Col. James H. Doolittle was the first fully loaded bomber ever to take off from an aircraft carrier.

The mission was so secret that even President Franklin Roosevelt was not informed, said Potter, 71, of Austin, Texas.

Doolittle trained the crews for the short takeoffs at a landing strip in Florida. Potter was the navigator of Doolittle's lead bomber.

"I don't think we exhibited any more courage than anyone else," Potter said, recalling the takeoff. "I don't think any of us thought about anything other

than that we were doing our jobs."

The skies cleared before the planes reached their targets, and the bombs were dropped successfully on key industrial sites.

The bombers tried to flee Japanese air space and land on mainland China, but stormy weather made it impossible for them to reach safe haven.

One of the planes landed in Russia. The other 15 landed in the water near the China coast or crashed after the crews bailed out, according to an official war department report of the mission.

All 80 crew members made it to the ground safely, but eight were captured by the Japanese. Of those, three were executed by their captors, one died in prison and four were released when the war ended, the government report says.

Forty-four of the original Doolittle Raiders, including Doolittle, are still alive, Potter said. Doolittle is 93 and lives in Carmel, California.

Potter said there has been talk about searching for the planes over the years, but he said the expedition near the mountain villages of Linan and Quzhou, in an area to the south of Shanghai, will be the first.

Bryan Moon, an artist and amateur historian, is leading the expedition.

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Kremlin offer rejected

Gorbachev defied by Baltic states, Armenians

MOSCOW, July 28, (Agencies): Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have rejected a Kremlin offer to help rewrite the treaty that created the Soviet Union and reiterated their preference for joint talks with Moscow on independence.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, Estonian President Arnold Ruutel and Latvian President Anatoly Gorbunov made the statements today after a meeting yesterday of their Baltic Council.

The statement came a day after the republics agreed to bypass the Kremlin by signing political and economic treaties with the vast Russian republic, headed by President Boris N. Yeltsin.

In June Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev proposed that the country's 15 republics agree on a new, looser union of "sovereign states." The new union treaty envisions transforming the Soviet Union into a confederation of independent countries, like the European community or the British Commonwealth.



Festival of gypsies

A gypsy girl dances as she prepares for her performance on Romfest July 27. The event is the first International Festival of Gypsy culture which is being held over a two-day period in Maria's Valley near Brno, Czechoslovakia. (Rauter wirephoto)

RAF still a lethal threat in Bonn

BONN, July 28, (AP): Counter-terrorism officials beamed with pride over the recent roundup in East Germany's notorious Red Army Faction.

But yesterday's attack on Hans Neusel confirmed security officials' worst fear. The two-decade-old battle against one of Europe's most persistent and deadly terror groups is still out over.

West German security officials boasted about the arrests, but at the same time warned a new string of attacks may be imminent.

About three hours after yesterday's bombing, Neusel, the Interior Ministry's top terrorism expert, showed clear frustration over the seemingly unending struggle against the Red Army Faction.

Neusel said the gang's violent central core has apparently taken on new people from its ranks of ideological supporters.

"We are not able to quantify this growth or give the individuals names," he said.

The attack was a serious blow to the morale of German anti-terror officials after success in rounding up some alleged gang members long wanted by the law.

Over the past several weeks eight alleged members of the gang were arrested in East Germany. East German officials charge that the ousted communist leadership sheltered the alleged terrorists.

The Red Army Faction grew out of West Germany's radical left-wing scene of the 1960s. Many of its members have been students espousing Marxism and bared for the capitalist system.

The gang first surfaced in April 2, 1968, the day four assailants launched arson attacks on two Frankfurt department stores.

The group was originally known as the Baader-Meinhof gang, named after two of its founders, Andreas Baader and Ulrike Meinhof. Both Baader and Meinhof killed themselves in the 1970s while serving prison sentences.

In 1971, the organisation adopted its current name, and over the years has launched a string of assassinations, robberies and bombings that have given the gang international infamy.

On Nov 10, 1974, the gang killed West Berlin judge Guenter von Drenkmann in his apartment.

Other victims, all killed in 1977, include then-federal prosecutor Siegfried Buback, Hanns Martin Schleyer, the kidnapped head of the Employers Association, and Dresdner Bank spokesman Juergen Ponto.

Stasi-linked MPs barred Election row nearing end

BONN, July 28, (Reuters): East and West German politicians of all colours seemed to have agreed today how to elect the first parliament of a united Germany on December 2, ending a row which almost toppled East Berlin's government.

The only opponent was the East German Communist Party, which the compromise is designed to keep out of the new assembly.

Leaders of other major parties backed a plan to help smaller East German groups into a united parliament even if they win less than the minimum five per cent of the vote they need under Bonn's electoral system.

"To give East Germany's new democrats a chance, it is important that just this once we let small groups stand on a shared list with big parties," said Johannes Gerster, parliamentary spokesman on domestic policy for Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conservative alliance.

This would mean two parties could field a combined list of candidates which, if it won more than five per cent of the vote, would ensure seats for both parties in the new parliament.

East Germany's Small Citizens' Movements could perhaps join with the Social Democrats (SPD), and the German Social Union (DSU) with its

bigger conservative allies, but the communists (PDS) would be snubbed.

Alone, the communists could win up to 15 per cent of the East German vote, but this translates to three per cent over the whole country. Communist leader Gregor Gysi said he thought the party had a good chance of clearing the hurdle alone.

The SPD and liberals also supported associate lists. "It avoids us throwing the PDS a lifeline," Otto Lambsdorff, head of Bonn's liberal Free Democrats, told the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper today. His party is the junior partner in Kohl's centrist coalition.

The Christian Democrats, led in the East by Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere, originally wanted East and West Germany to unite just after the election, not before, to give smaller parties in the East, such as the DSU, a better chance.

The SPD said the real reason was to help the communists into parliament to split the left and increase Kohl's chances.

East Germany's Christian Democrats (CDU) have barred 24 of their deputies from political office in a united Germany after discovering alleged ties to the former Stasi security police, a newspaper reported today.

Solidarity splits

WARSAW, July 28, (AP): A breakaway branch of Solidarity today formed a new party to rival the faction that backs Lech Walesa.

The new party, the Citizens Movement for Democratic Action, includes many heroes of Solidarity's successful struggle against communist rule in the 1980s. Its founding congress today drew more than 1,000 delegates from around the country.

Organisers said they want the party to offer support to Solidarity Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who is frequently criticised by Walesa.

A pro-Walesa party, the Centre Alliance, was formed two months ago.

Zbigniew Bujak, a Solidarity leader during the years the movement was banned, acknowledged

the formation of the two parties reflects "polarisation" within Solidarity. But he said that "does not have to be bad."

"A democratic country is a country of different proposals. We will have to forget about the otherwise comfortable structure in which the picture was black and white... just us against them," he told the new party's members.

In its first political move, the congress voted nearly unanimously to endorse a constitutional amendment mandating a popularly elected president.

Currently, the president is chosen by the two chambers of parliament. The new party's members include many of Walesa's long-time advisers and allies in Solidarity.

US air force ends continuous 'looking glass' flights

WASHINGTON, July 28, (UPI): With President Bush's approval, the air force this week quietly ended its 29-year-old practice of keeping a "looking glass" emergency command plane in the air at all times in case of a surprise nuclear attack.

With no fanfare or advance public notice, the last in an uninterrupted string of flights named "looking glass" landed at Offutt air force base near Omaha, Nebraska, at 2:28 pm Tuesday.

The United States began the flights from

Offutt on Feb 3, 1961, shortly after the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy and at the height of the cold war.

Ever since then, one of several EC-135 planes — a military version of a Boeing 707 — has been flying over the United States at all times to act as an emergency command post should a surprise nuclear attack kill the top US political and military leaders.

As soon as one plane landed, the next would take off. But that practice ended Tuesday, with more than a quarter of a million

hours of accident-free flying.

Now, the looking glass planes will remain on ground alert and fly "random sorties" each week, Maj Dennis Pierson, a spokesman for the strategic air command at Offutt, said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Budgetary constraints and the ability of intelligence-gathering satellites played more of a role in the decision than recent changes in Eastern Europe or improved US-Soviet relations, he said.

طيران المقاتل



Yeltsin (second right) stands with leaders of the three Baltic states, from left to right: Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania, Arnold Ruutel of Estonia and Gorbunov of Latvia July 27. (Reuters wirephoto)

Taylor forms parallel govt

Rebels fight for Monrovia

ABIDJAN, July 28, (Agencies): Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor announced the formation of a new government as his forces and those of a rival rebel group battled their way to the last stronghold of President Samuel Doe in central Monrovia.

Taylor said in a radio broadcast last night that Doe's administration had been dissolved and he had formed a new government, the National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly.

He promised free multi-party elections within six months and called

for the remnants of Doe's army to surrender.

Fighting reached the heart of the capital yesterday as rebel forces surged over two bridges from the port area of Bushrod Island into the Mamba Point diplomatic quarter.

But foreign correspondents in the city said these forces belonged to Prince Johnson, leader of a dissident rebel faction opposed to Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

Taylor's forces were believed to be still six miles (10 km) from the city centre in the eastern suburb of Paynesville.

Diplomats fear infighting among the rebels once Doe's last bastion, his heavily fortified seafront mansion, is overcome.

Shortly after Taylor announced his new government, the US State Department said Doe was still holding out at the eight-storey mansion.

Diplomats say he is holed up with several hundred elite troops from his minority Krahn tribe and a large stockpile of ammunition.

The two rebel factions appear to be fighting separately against Doe, but Johnson's forces, which are thought to number only a few hundred, have clashed several times with Taylor's 15,000-strong NPFL over the past two months.

Diplomats say Taylor's forces would probably win any showdown between the two groups.

Despite Johnson's prominent role in the battle for Monrovia, his forces control only a few northern suburbs of the city.

Taylor's mainstream NPFL on the other hand controls the eastern suburbs of Monrovia, the international airport at Robertsfield, the port of Buchanan — Liberia's second largest city — and most of the densely-forested interior.

Doe has vowed to fight on, but diplomats say the 38-year-old master sergeant, who seized power in a bloody coup 10 years ago, is drinking heavily and has lost touch with reality.

He is also thought to be a virtual prisoner of his indiscipline and demoralised troops, who have subjected Monrovia to an orgy of looting and tribal killings.

The soldiers' main victims are members of the Gio and Mano tribes, firm supporters of the rebel movement.

Diplomats said this week alone, over 100 Manos and Gios have been dragged from their homes and hospital beds to be butchered by Doe's soldiers.

Many of their bodies have been dumped on Monrovia's beaches. Doe's Krahn tribe, accounts for only five per cent of Liberia's 2.3 million population and it now fears massive reprisals by the victorious rebels.

Officials in neighbouring Ivory Coast said 1,000 Krahn a day have been fleeing across the border for the past week.

Although the rebels are known to have carried out some tribal killings, foreign correspondents observing their advance into Monrovia on Friday said they seemed well-disciplined and respectful of civilian lives.

Taylor, a 42-year-old US-trained economist and former Doe associate, wants to promote private investment and retain Liberia's traditionally close ties with the United States.

Liberia was founded by freed US slaves in 1847 and its population is unique in Africa for speaking English with a strong American accent.

JOHANNESBURG, July 28, (Reuters): Police said they defused a powerful car bomb in a building used by the South African Defence Force (SADF) beside a crowded street of the capital Pretoria today.

Spokesman Captain Rex Marce said the bomb was in a multi-storey car park beneath the Hallmark Building, which houses SADF offices.

An explosion on the building's second floor would have blasted through a grille in the wall and onto one of the most crowded streets in the city, killing many people, he said.

Police were alerted by a passer-by who noticed the bomb connected to an activated timer in the car at about 9 am.

A shopping arcade runs through the Hallmark Building.

Marce said the explosives were of communist origin.

He did not know who planted the bomb and no claim of responsibility had been received.

On Friday evening a limpet mine exploded one metre (yard) from an oil storage tank in Cape Town harbour but caused no injuries or damage, police said.

The explosion ripped a hole in the ground between two tanks containing diesel oil. The tanks were among 10 on the site of an old quarry surrounded by a high fence. Police said the mine may have been thrown over the fence.

There has been no claim of responsibility for the blast.

White extremists opposed to political reforms by President F. W. de Klerk have claimed responsibility for a string of bomb attacks against anti-apartheid targets in and around Johannesburg in recent weeks.

Eight blacks were killed and 172 people arrested in township violence throughout the country, police said today.

The most serious incident occurred in Khayelitsha outside Cape Town, where a mob stoned a private truck, causing the driver to lose control, police said. The vehicle crashed into a crowd, killing three women and a man.

The bodies of four men who had been stabbed to death were found in three separate sites in black areas in the eastern part of the country, police added.

Of the 127 people arrested, 74 were detained outside the southern city of Port Elizabeth, where demonstrators refused a police order to disperse, authorities said.

South African judges gained the right on Friday to decide for themselves whether to impose the death penalty for certain crimes, giving new hope to hundreds of people on death row.

All current death sentences will be reviewed in terms of the new law on sentencing, which became effective on Friday, Justice Minister Kobi Coetsee said in a statement.



Liberian rebels evacuate one of their wounded during a battle against government soldiers at Schellen military camp outside Monrovia. (Reuters filephoto)

Dissident Johnson

ABIDJAN, July 28, (Reuters): Dissident rebel Prince Johnson, now fighting for control of the Liberian capital Monrovia, remains an unknown quantity in a volatile situation, diplomatic sources said on Saturday.

Johnson controls a mobile force of 200 to 400 men but has fallen out with the main rebel army of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

The rival groups have skirmished several times since Taylor launched the rebellion by invading Liberia's Nimba county from Ivory Coast last December with about 150 men, including Johnson, with the aim of overthrowing President Samuel Doe.

The reasons for the split were obscure but some sources said Johnson, like Doe once an ordinary soldier in the Liberian army, had accused Taylor's forces of killing some of his men.

As Johnson's rebels battled the remnants of Doe's army in the streets of Monrovia on Friday, Taylor announced on rebel radio that he had ousted the government and set up an NPFL administration which would hold elections within six months.

The sources said it was unclear whether Johnson was opposed to Taylor becoming president or whether he was fighting for a share of power in a Taylor-led government once Doe was ousted.

Little was known about Johnson's political views, the sources said, apart from the fact that he did not accept Taylor's unconditional leadership of the rebel movement.

Johnson fled Liberia after an unsuccessful attempt in 1985 to overthrow Doe. As a military instructor, he had risen to the rank of captain after Doe, then a master sergeant, seized power in a bloody coup in 1980.

Liberian sources said he was reputed to be an excellent soldier, a charismatic figure and a persuasive speaker.

Although he took part in the original rebel invasion, he had always remained somewhat aloof from Taylor and the NPFL, they said.

Like Taylor's NPFL, Johnson's force was recruited mainly from the Gio and Mano tribesmen of Nimba county to combat Doe's Krahn-dominated army in what quickly turned into a tribal conflict.

As the rebels advanced out of Nimba county, Johnson captured the town of Gbangba in central Liberia from Doe's troops, but later withdrew and left it to Taylor.

BRITISH CITIZENS

The British Embassy Consular Section reminds British Citizens who are resident in Kuwait, and Citizens of other Commonwealth countries without a Mission in Kuwait, that they should renew their registrations at the Consulate for 1990, if they have not already done so. Renewals may be made by mail or telephone.

All registrations not renewed since June 1988 will be discarded.

Those making a final departure from Kuwait in the near future are requested to cancel their registration with the Consulate shortly before leaving, in order to assist accuracy of records.

British Embassy, Consular Section,
Arabian Gulf Street,
P.O. Box 2, 13001 Safat, Kuwait.
Telephone: 243-2046/1/8/9
Fax: 240-7395

KUWAIT ... GULF

Agro-production field attracts local manpower

Generous state support

THE deputy chairman of the Kuwait Union of Agro-production Co-operative Societies Marzouq Mifrah Al Tammar has said agro-production depends mainly on manpower and on the suitable condition of arable or reclaimed soil, and lastly the needed fertilisers and machinery. He told a locally-produced

magazine, Al Hasad, that manpower is now available in Kuwait, and the field of agro-production, animal resources, poultry, and fish has attracted many citizens to become a rich scope of investment. He pointed out to government's generous support of producers which included offering tracts of land.

encouragement loans and incentives, besides all needed theoretical guidance equipment and irrigation water, both brackish and treated affluent.

He called for the combining of efforts by government and people to optimise the implementation of agricultural projects. He

added that this vital field has been coming in for steady support from the government and HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince.

Tammar also pointed out the union's contribution to the expansion of Kuwait's agricultural projects, and related

services, adding that there is ongoing co-ordination between the producer and consumer unions to further expand the scope of these services and that major steps have of late been taken to provide reliable marketing channels for local produce in all five governorates in the country.

He said that the development of agriculture is a national duty, which must sincerely be followed by all farmers. The observance of directions issued by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources is necessary to step up production and secure optimum results, Tammar said.

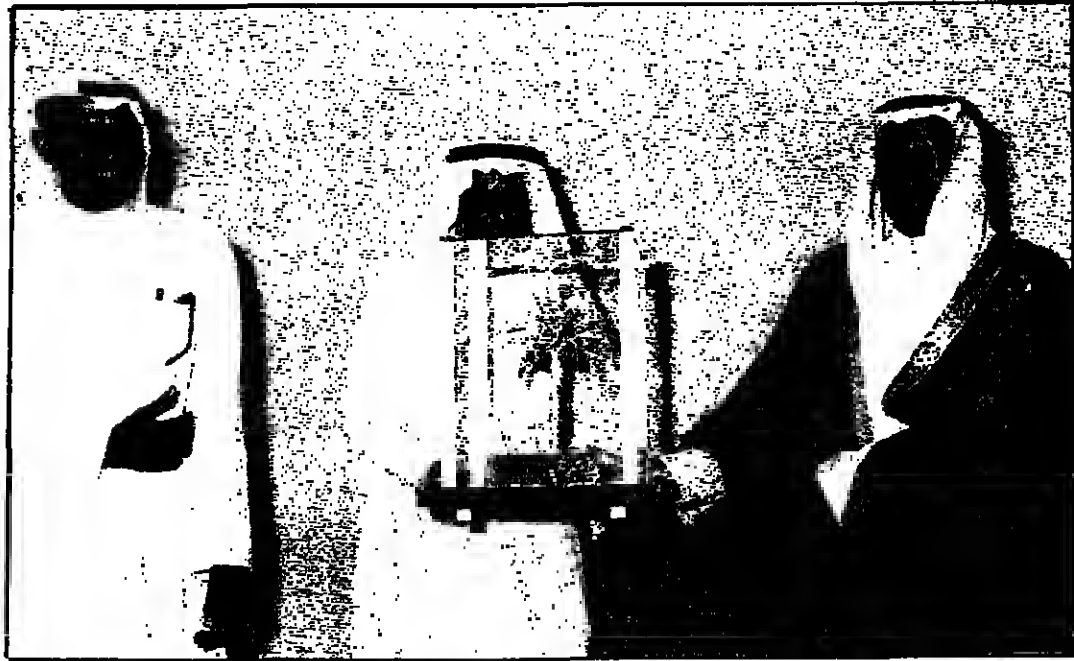
Riyadh, Beijing relations positive

KUWAIT, July 28, (Kuna): The close viewpoints between Saudi Arabia and China and the awareness by both of the necessity to establish ties had hastened the decision to exchange diplomatic relations, announced July 21, China's first ambassador to the kingdom said in press statements.

Ambassador-designate Sun Bi Gan, who will shortly present his credentials to the Saudi authorities, described the event of establishing relations between his country and Saudi Arabia as one of positive reflections on the regional and world levels.

He told that the first step towards establishing ties with Riyadh was the opening of trade representation offices in both Riyadh and Beijing back in 1988.

The envoy indicated that relations between the two sides, given the weight they represent at regional and world levels as well as their distinguished position would positively reflect upon maintenance of world peace and opening of vast horizons for multi-sided co-operation.



Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij receives a commemorative gift from Mohammad Khalifa.



Duaij speaking at the celebrations at the Kuwaiti Agronomists Society.

Lack of qualified administrators

Need to attract Kuwaitis: Duaij

THE Director-General of the Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij Al Sabah was quoted as saying that the authority suffers a lack of national qualified cadres in the non-agricultural specialisations such as accounting and administration.

Speaking at a celebration organised by Kuwaiti Agronomists Society in his honour to mark his designation as the honorary chairman of the Society, the official commented that national cadres were in short supply in various other state's departments in the field of technical expertise and this was also evidenced at the agricultural level.

He commented that most Kuwaiti youths refrained from joining some state's authorities and preferred to join others due to the difference in the payment of allowances and other advantages.

He disclosed that he was personally following up with authorities the possibilities of equalising the position of personnel working as agronomists with those of other engineering specialisations. This is intended to encourage Kuwaiti youth to join the authority in the future. Meanwhile, the official called on other agricultural corporations and companies to extend more advantages to attract Kuwaiti cadres.

Replying to a question, Sheikh Ibrahim confirmed that the main structural organisations at the authority have been finalised. He clarified that many positions in the authority were being created in accordance with the new organisation including the post of Deputy Director General. He added that the organisation has been set up in keeping with the administrative development process in the country and to keep abreast with the leap which is expected to be realised during the 1990s decade.

Concluding his speech, he confirmed his authority's support to any

action which might be taken by the State represented by H.H. the Amir aimed at preserving the country's security and stability.

During the ceremony, the chairman of Kuwaiti Agronomists Society Mohammed Khalifa in his speech praised the role played by Sheikh Ibrahim Duaij Al Sabah towards solving the problems facing Kuwaiti agronomists in addition to his role towards the provision of the necessary incentives for Kuwaitis working in the agricultural field.

Meanwhile, the society issued a statement in which it confirmed its support to the measures taken by the government aimed at preserving national unity.

Meanwhile, the latest Arab economic report obtained by Kuna has said that nearly 132 million acres of land are fit for agriculture in the Arab world and only 30 per cent is used.

The report, which coincides with today's meeting of the Arab agricultural ministers in Amman, pointed out that 22 million Arabs are presently working in the agricultural sector, representing 38.5 per cent of Arab manpower.

The Arab world still depends on imports of major foodstuffs more than any other region in the world, said the report. It added that the Arab agricultural exports heavily outweigh agricultural imports as the ratio between the two stood six-to-one in 1987.

The report warned that the present situation does not correspond with what the Arab world enjoys of natural resources.

The report said the importance of the agricultural sector in the economies of the Arab countries varies from one country to another noting that the contribution of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1988 was about 1.4 per cent in Kuwait and Qatar and 50 per cent in Somalia.

Kfaed finances 3 projects in Egypt

DR ABDUL KARIM Sadeq, the Economic Advisor at Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (Kfaed) was quoted as confirming that there has been co-operation between the Kuwait Fund and Egypt since the fund's establishment in the early 1960s.

In an interview with a local daily, the official currently visiting Egypt at the head of the fund's mission for appraising some development projects in Egypt, said that the fund had recently contributed to the financing of three projects — one for the reclamation of Rasheed Beach, another for developing pharmaceutical industries and the third for a steel project.

He disclosed that during the visit to Egypt, an agreement was initiated between the fund and Egypt whereby the fund will make a loan of KD 20 million (about \$58 million) for financing the infrastructure of irrigation and drainage works to reclaim 400,000 acres of North Sinai. He added that the loan will cover the project cost in foreign currency, and pointed out that the loan will be at an interest of 3 per cent per annum and will be for a period of 23 years including an eight-year grace period and will be amortised in semi annual installments. The total cost of the project is estimated at KD 71 million (about \$240 million).

The official said that the respective draft loan agreement will be submitted to the board of directors of the fund for approval within the next two months.

He added that about half of the loans extended by the fund were to Arab countries, the balance being granted to Asian, African, European and Pacific countries.

Sadeq said that the fund, through its lending policy, has no political objectives and finances only development projects related to agriculture, industrial, communications, transport, electricity and water projects. He disclosed that the fund has never financed any arms industry or chemical projects.

Meanwhile director-general of the fund, Bader Al Humaidi, conferred in London recently with British Overseas Development Minister Lynda Chalker on matters of common interest related to aid to the development world and Africa.

A spokesman for the overseas development administration said that Kuwait, like Britain, is a major donor in Africa, the Arab world and under-developed countries.

Both countries are committed to offering aid to the Third World, the spokesman added.

3,200 students to join university

KUWAIT University has earmarked 2,900 seats for students in the first semester and 300 in the second. These students will be accommodated at different facilities in accordance with the 1990-1995 five-year plan.

Speaking to a local daily, Musaed Al Dakheel, the General Registrar at the university said that Kuwaiti students with secondary certificates from abroad will be admitted as well as children of expatriate teaching staff, children of diplomatic envoys to Kuwait and candidates from Arab and foreign countries.

Expatriate students studying in Kuwait will be admitted provided they had completed all stages of studies in Kuwait and possess secondary certificates.

Outstanding students at the faculties of Public Authority for Applied Education and Training will also be admitted to the university.

The official said that all applications submitted up to July 18 had been scrutinised through computers on a highly confidential basis under the supervision of the Dean of Admission and Registration.

KU to expand existing facilities

Over KD 150m allocated

IN its five-year plan 90/91-94/95, Kuwait University's main objective is to expand the capacity of existing academic facilities and students buildings, in order to accommodate the steadily increasing numbers of students and meet the needs for new academic facilities to cover the requirements of university education before the start of the 21st century.

The university strategy to achieve this is based on two main projects, one involves the development of existing five university sites in Khaldiya, Shuwaikh, Adaliya, Jahriya, and Keifan, and the second is the construction of an integrated university campus to meet the growing student population.

As to the first project, the relevant construction schedule has been finalised and is ready for implementation, and quite a large part of it will be completed over the years of the plan.

As to the second project, the general concept of the pre-development plans and planning designing stages has been outlined, and construction will commence upon the completion of the first project.

A deep look at both projects will enable one to realise that both are aimed at ameliorating, developing and upgrading the performance level of existing university facilities and to expand their capacity to the maximum level possible to accommodate 20,000 students within the context of an academic plan to develop and re-organise study programmes with the intention of making certain additions.

The construction schedule is based on four major items, which include the construction of a new building to accommodate the number of students that the existing facilities cannot take up for capacity limitations, renovation and exterior remodelling of existing students buildings for added performance, optimisation

of existing site services to be better able to meet the added operational burdens, and lastly the landscaping and greening of the existing site, provision of safety requirements and achieving architectural harmony as becoming of academic facilities.

The total budget allocated for the development of the existing five academic facilities is KD 126.433 million, and this figure is expected to increase by KD 40 millions due to the rising cost of building and construction, with the estimated construction cost breaking down to 58 per cent as main development project, on Shuwaikh site, 27 per cent for the campus in Khaldiya, 9 per cent for the site in Jahriya, 1.5 per cent for the site in Keifan, 1 per cent for the site in Adaliya and 3.5 per cent for construction project management.

The university site in Shuwaikh, being the site with the major share of construction projects, will involve a number of projects such as the expansion of existing students buildings in the faculties of social science and law, at a total area of 40,000 square metres, and the project will utilise the existing site of the faculty of arts, and the completion date is September 1993.

The projects to be constructed on the Shuwaikh campus will include the conversion of use of 12 students residential buildings into classrooms and offices for the teaching staff, a building for administration, stores and workshops which will occupy a 16,000 square metre site to be completed by the end of this year.

The project will also include the construction of a social entertainment centre, a central kitchen, a central library, a computer centre, underground parking facilities, conference rooms, theatre and other key facilities.

In Khaldiya there are a number of projects which involve the expansion the existing

Science College building and administration offices as well as the library, and the construction of new classrooms, parking lots, new cafeteria, expansion of the geology workshop besides the renovation and exterior remodelling of a number of existing students buildings. In Jahriya, pre-development studies for the construction of a complex combining a new college for paramedics and medical sciences, as well as a college of pharmacology and dental medicine on a projected site area of 30,000 square metres, including the site of the existing medical building, to form a medical science centre.

In Odaliya, the projects involve the development of existing campus remodelling of existing buildings exterior, landscaping and site greening, upgrading sanitary and service grids and the construction of new gates and security fences, as well as the provision of new signs in and outside the main access of the Faculty of Commerce, Economics and Political Sciences.

The second main project in the Kuwait University strategy involves the construction of a new university campus in Shadadiya which will be designed to take up 20,000 students to meet the projected increase in the demand for academic services and facilities at the outset of the 21st century.

With a projected 400,000 square metre site, 20 metre of academic and related facilities will be allocated for each student, while special residential accommodation will be provided for 20 per cent of the total student population projected for the new campus which will include married student couples.

The site will also include 100,000 square metres for sports facilities, and the exact location of these facilities will be determined upon final endorsement of the proposed new site drawings.

ICF gives memo to Indian minister

DURING the recent visit of the Civil Aviation Minister, Arif Khan in Kuwait, a delegation of Indian community representatives, Indian Cultural Forum president N.V.K. Warrior, Biren Mulik, K.C. Kousal and Babu Thumpamon met the minister and submitted a memorandum.

The memorandum carried the complete details of the fare hike by Air-India on the tickets of flights from Kuwait to various destinations in India and also showed how exorbitant the fare rate in the Gulf sector comparatively to European and Asian sectors.

The delegation also brought to the attention of the minister the plight of nearly thousand wageless workers of Al Qurain project who left for India and their pending case of the balance payment of nearly more than one crore rupees.

The delegation requested the minister to take effective steps to finalise the case as early as possible to relieve the workers from their debt.

The minister listened to the delegation and assured them that he would take effective measures immediately after getting the parliamentary committee report specially constituted to enquire excess fare hike in this sector.

Regarding the pending cases of the workers minister gathered the details of the case from the ambassador and assured the delegation that he would enquire into the matter.

The delegation told the minister that as a part of the relief work of the community, an amount of rupees one lakh ten thousand had been deposited in the name of the poor widow and two children of a deceased Indian worker of Al Qurain project and they would get an interest of rupees one thousand one hundred and seventy five per month for ten years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Marine heritage rally next month: The Fifth Marine Heritage Rally will be attended by youth delegations from the other GCC countries and will begin as of the next month.

Disclosing particulars of the event, the administrative official at the Higher Committee of the Rally, Ali Al Qubandi said that the contributions of the GCC countries in the rally is aimed at enhancing co-operation among member states towards projecting their joint heritage.

The GCC contribution will be represented in the form of 10 members from each country. Presently, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have conveyed approval, while Qatar and Oman have regretted their inability to attend. He expressed hopes that other GCC countries will positively respond to the invitation.

The official thanked the Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, the Minister of Information, Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah and the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber.

Zakat school in India: Zakat House staff have unanimously made a collective donation to fund the construction of a school in India, called 'Equality', in a bid to push forward charity projects and achieve solidarity among Muslims.

Project construction has started and work has been reported satisfactorily in progress. This initiative by the Zakat House staff is intended to set down an example of collective success for staff in ministries, government departments and other institutions.

Health minister tours Jahra Hospital: Within his multiple surprise tours among health facilities and administrations, Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Wahhab Al Fouzan inspected Al Jahra Hospital recently.

The minister was received by the acting director of Al Jahra Health Area, Dr Abdul Raouf Al Jawhari and the acting director of Al Jahra Hospital, Dr Ahmed Al Ghareeb and consultants, including heads of different divisions.

During his tour, the minister inspected different divisions of the hospital and familiarised himself with the hospital's readiness to meet summer requirements. He praised the efforts exerted by officials, physicians and the nursing staff and urged them to extend themselves to cater to the needs of patients.

The minister expressed special concern towards upgrading preliminary health care and also discussed the requirements of the health area, particularly the hospital's need for nursing staff.

Stamps at banks: The Ministry of Finance has agreed with committees of Kuwaiti banks to sell revenue stamps at main local banks and their branches with effect from August 1, 1990. Cashiers at ministries and other government departments will continue selling these stamps.

These procedures have been adopted to facilitate the convenience of the public, responsible sources at the ministry said.

Kuwait

(Continued from Page 1)

The statement, attributed to a responsible government source and circulated by the official Saudi Press Agency said the meeting was the result of the mediation efforts of King Fahd and Egyptian President Mubarak to contain the "transient rifts" between the two countries.

It said the Saudi government was "deeply satisfied with the response of both Iraq and Kuwait to the goodwill efforts and grateful to all Arab leaders who have been working to realize Arab solidarity."

Iraq has termed this upcoming meeting a protocol step, demanding it be followed by working talks in Baghdad.

The diplomatic sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, noted that oil, financial and legal experts from Kuwait and Iraq are expected to get together separately in the Saudi summer capital to work out the terms of an agreement on the oil, border and loans dispute.

The experts are expected to work quickly and behind the scenes while the mediators try to reconcile divergent views.

Egyptian presidential advisor Osama Al Baz was in both countries ahead of the meeting. So was Chadi Klibi, the secretary-general of the Arab League.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad received in his office at Bayan Palace the following ministers and personalities:

■ Minister of Interior, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah

■ Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Dr Abdulrahman Al Awadi

■ Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Yahya Fahd Al Sumait

■ Finance Minister, Sheikh Al Khalifa Al Athbi

■ Minister of State for Planning, Dr Ahmad Al-Sayid

■ Central Bank Governor, Sheikh Salem Abdelaziz Al Saoud

■ Members of the National Council, Wafid K. Al Mudhaf, Jasem A. Al Amir, Kathem Rouabbas, Jawad A. Al Malrouk and Fayez H. Al Bgaily.

His Highness also received the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates Obeid K. Al Zaabi on the occasion of his appointment to Kuwait and the ambassador of Brazil on the occasion of his end of term here.

Palestinian ambassador to Kuwait Awni Battash today expressed the Palestine Liberation Organisation's satisfaction over the signs of de-escalation in the Iraq-Kuwait crisis.

Battash, in a statement to Al Seyassah, expressed his belief that the Kuwaiti and Iraqi leaderships can and will overcome this crisis with a solution that enhances their bilateral relations in various spheres, and serves the Arab solidarity in the face of Zionist policies.

He further said PLO had been particularly, anguished by the sudden crisis between Iraq and Kuwait since it coincided with a surge of Israeli brutalities against Palestinian people in the occupied lands.

Bakhtiar

(Continued from Page 1)

Lawyer Jacques Verges said the money, reported to total about four million francs (\$750,000), arrived in France on Thursday, 24 hours before the five were paroled by Mitterrand.

He told Reuters in an interview that the payment was the last obstacle to Naccache's release. "The compensation is important but it is not the determining element in the release," Verges said.

Naccache, 40, whose fate during his 10 years in jail was linked to fatal bombings in Paris, to Western hos-

teges in Lebanon and to France's relations with Tehran, intended to restart "substantive activism" in Iran, Verges said.

Verges said the decision to free Naccache was taken in January when he ended a four-month hunger strike. Mitterrand had said he would not be released while he refused to eat.

Verges said the pardon could improve the chances for the 15 Western hostages still believed held in Lebanon. "It can only relax the atmosphere," he added.

Panel for treatment abroad

By Diana Abou Halder
Arab Times staff

MINISTER of Public Health, Dr Abdul Wahab Al Fouzan has formed a committee for organising the service of treatment abroad provided to Kuwaitis by the ministry.

All applications of patients seeking treatment abroad will have to be approved by the new Supreme Medical Committee. According to the ministerial decision, the committee will study the applications, interview the patients and ask for detailed medical reports from treating physicians in and outside Kuwait.

Any extensions on treatment time abroad has to be approved by the committee that is also given the right to recall the patient if it fails to see enough progress.

Also, any changes of hospitals or clinics in the country where the patient is receiving medical care, has to be approved by the committee after a recommendation by the treating physician.

Decisions and recommendations of the Supreme Medical Committee have to be approved by the undersecretary.

Members of the committee are: Dr Mahmoud Sulaiman Al Bader, Dr Mohamed Salem Al Ayyad, Dr Abdul Latif Al Zaid, Dr Rashed Al Rusboud, Dr Abdul Raheem Al Zaid, Dr Mohamed Al Mishan and Dr Ahmed Ayaf Al Ayaf.

Oil main source of Gulf pollution

DR Hussein Ali Al Misfer has said in the course of a lecture he delivered at a symposium organised by the department of youths and childhood in co-operation with the Environmental Protection Council under the title "Beach Clean-up Protection Campaign" that it is important to realise what substances are considered grave pollutants to our beaches and environment, so that we can protect them against these hazards.

He said that the main source of pollution in the Gulf include the collision of oil tankers, oil prospecting, emptying balance water from passing ships into territorial waters of neighbouring countries, oil pipelines and occasional explosions of underwater oil pipelines.

Misfer pointed out that man is a vital instrument in the protection or destruction of the environment, and that this is reflected in how careful the

individual is in littering or keeping the environment clean, whether on the beaches, roads, parks and other public facilities, particularly the sea as it is the primary source of drinking water in the region.

He added that the educational campaign organised by the council for the purpose of encouraging protection of beaches and those launched by the youth clubs in the governorates substantially contribute to the

protection of Kuwaiti beaches.

He said that the importance of the protected environment has reflected on schools which have organised special classes for raising environmental awareness among students, and that this step constitutes an important factor in developing and expanding environmental understanding and encouraging active participation and positive contribution to protect the environment against pollution.

محاضرة الدكتور حسين

ARAB TIMES GRAND

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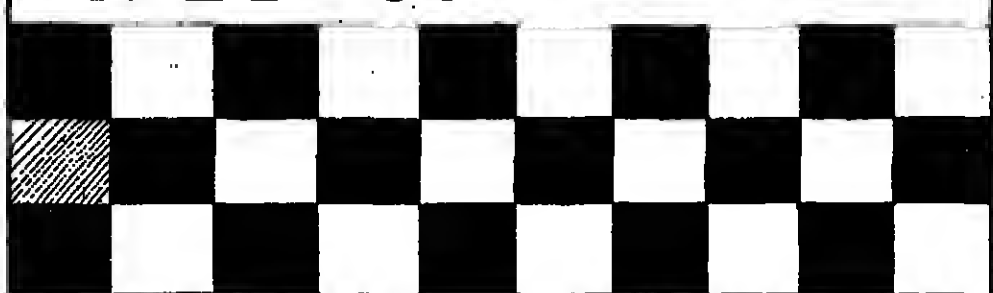
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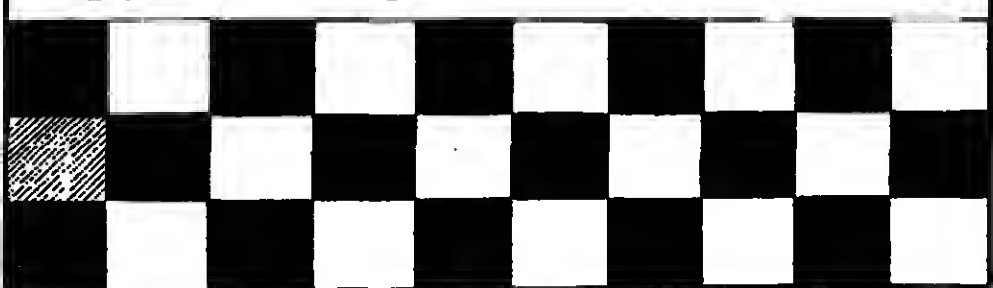
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card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to:

Bingo,
Arab Times,
P.O. Box 2270,
13023 Safat Kuwait.

A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

Computers optimising performance at Justice Ministry

Statistical report for 1989 soon

THE director of the Computer Centre at the Justice Ministry Mohammad Hamad Al Roumi has said that the department is using computers and microfilm systems to optimise performance levels at the different departments of the ministry.

He told a local daily that the department is currently preparing to release the ministry's annual statistical report for 1989, which will contain a review of all different achievements accomplished by the ministry, supported by data and reports.

The existing computer system where real estate records are stored in the Real Estate Registration Department has high

specifications with quick retrieval of target-info, Roumi said.

He added that the centre has of late released a statistical bulletin on a number of cases examined by the prosecution during 1989, which totalled 12,351 cases, and the centre also reviewed and scheduled 83,899 others, registered 10,108 marriage cases and 2,987 cases of divorce.

The department was established in 1980 for the purpose of introducing appropriate computer and microfilm systems into the work sites to upgrade work performance levels at all different ministry departments, Roumi said.

He added that the department provided different official agencies and government ministries, such as the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry, the Public Authority for Minors Affairs, the Public Authority for Civil Information, Ministry of Interior and the Amiri Diwan, with all needed information and reports as well as answering all queries.

He said that the department paid great attention to encouraging Kuwaiti cadres to join in the various training courses organised in and outside Kuwait, and that over the past three years, the number of

Kuwaiti staff has, as a result, increased to 32 from 18.

He said that the number of non-penal cases examined by the Court of First Instance and related summary courts were 47,587. 39,457 were settled at a percentage of 82.9 per cent, while the number of divorce cases examined was 2,987, of which 1,811 involved Kuwaiti husbands.

404 cases of non-Muslims embracing Islam were brought before the court, while 60,787 others were submitted involving traffic violations. 60,518 were settled, bringing the total number of executed sentences to 18,778, Roumi said.

Warning against erroneous fishing

AN official source at the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources has strongly warned against the persistent use of bottom-scouring fishing methods which undermine stocks of essential marine resources and lead to the destruction of fish and their habitat.

He said that the side-effects of the scouring method are clearly visible in Kuwait territorial waters, due to the excessive pressure on shrimp which led to a steady reduction in shrimp stocks.

The authority banned the use of back-drawn nets in fin-fish catching, as there is more advanced equipment that does not leave adverse effects on the marine environment, and which are much more efficient in hunting operations than loose nets.

The source added that the authority has accepted the use of back-drawn nets for shrimp due to lack of other more convenient nets, adding that the authority has prepared a study on the effects of net-drawing ships on fish resources whose results necessitated the need to restrict fishing grounds to certain limited areas such as to Kuwait Bay. The authority has closed down shrimp areas to net-drawing vessels in certain seasons on an annual basis.

Data centre

THE secretary-general of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations Dr Abdullah Al Refai has announced the introduction of a new service at the institute.

He told a local daily that the new service will enable researchers to apply for needed information from different parts of the world which will be sought through a fax system, providing applicants with the chance to enrich their knowledge.

He said that the new service aims at providing information on new inventions, biomaterial studies and other relevant technological know-how to all applicants without discrimination, and that by so doing, the institute is the only centre in the world that provides this service to the public free of charge.

Kuwait to boost oil programme

Research lab proposed

By Jadranka Porter Arab Times staff

KUWAIT may boost an enhanced oil recovery programme aimed at developing techniques to extract heavy and inaccessible oil. The move could result in a large increase in Kuwait's oil reserves and bring fresh assurances of its economic prosperity.

Dr Mohammad Salman, a KISR researcher, said that with careful planning the normally time-consuming and costly research can be made cost-effective.

Judging by the experience of Western countries he estimated that it would take between 10 and 15 years of home-grown exploration before an enhanced oil recovery technique could be put to commercial use.

To promote the project Dr Salman of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and colleague Dr Bader Rowaik are putting together a proposal for an enhanced oil recovery research laboratory to carry out experiments on a miniature man-made oil reservoir. They hope to scale up the results for application in an oil field.

The research proposal comes at a time when Kuwait appears to be directing efforts towards developing national expertise and manpower in the oil sector to match its already vastly successful commercial operation. Kuwait University has recently opened a petroleum engineering department for students who opt



Dr. Mohammad Salman

for a career in petroleum engineering.

If approved, the research proposed could pool talent from the university, the Kuwait Oil Company and the Higher Institute of Applied Technology. It could also help develop their research department. Speaking of future prospects for their proposal Dr Salman said: "We expect it will be given serious consideration." The scientists say they are encouraged by the results of the enhanced oil recovery pilot project carried out by KOC, but were unable to provide any details.

"Sooner or later we shall have to develop the technology in Kuwait to increase our production and to use the oil that is left in the ground," said Dr Salman. On average only 30 to 40 per cent of initial oil in place (an estimate of the oil in a known reservoir before the start of any production) can be recovered using con-

ventional methods. The remaining could be recovered through the use of sophisticated techniques.

"Kuwait has been fortunate that much of its oil can be recovered in primary production stages which means that natural forces, be it the pressure from the surrounding water aquifers, dissolved gases or gravity are used to produce the oil from the ground," said Dr Salman. "In the secondary stages gases or water are injected under pressure to help in recovering more oil, while in the tertiary stage, more exotic techniques using steam, chemicals, hydrocarbon gases and even bacteria can be used to produce additional oil that otherwise could not be recovered by the conventional primary and secondary methods," he explained.

The proposed research, said Dr Salman, will focus on thermal recovery of heavy crude using steam injection. If it is approved the scientists will opt for physical modelling research. They will seek to build a model of an oil reservoir with all its geological and petrophysical properties and then set the parameters to help them scale it up for practical use. According to Dr Salman the latter will be among the most challenging tasks. "It is difficult to successfully apply an imported technology or scheme, every country has to develop its own research or at least adapt and modify an existing technique," he pointed out.

KD 250,000 allocated for theatrical movement

THE DIRECTOR of the department of the institutes and arts at the Ministry of Information Khalid Abdul Latif Ramadan has said that the Council of Ministers has allocated an annual budget of KD 250,000 for the fund of Higher Theatrical Committee, chaired by the minister Sheikh Jaher Mubarak Al Hamad.

He told a local daily that the budget is considered an advanced form of support rendered by the government to back up the theatrical movement and to open up new chances for development and progress in keeping with the civilisational progress of the country.

He said that the budget will be used to fund quite a few ambitious projects aimed at further pushing forward the theatrical movement in the country, adding that this will enable a number of great projects to reach implementation.

The initial step to utilise the budget will be based on funding the production of local serious artistic works, and special rewards will be given for distinguished performances in the seasons to come, Ramadan said.

He added that there will be special efforts to utilise the experience of brotherly Arab countries in establishing National Theatre in Kuwait, which will present works typical of what is going on at the local.

GCC meetings on changes

SALALAH, July 28, (Kuna): A GCC tripartite ministerial committee concluded meetings here recently aimed at appraising current international developments and their impact on the region.

Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousif Ben Alawi said at the conclusion of the meeting that the ministers have discussed in detail the state of every region that observed changes recently around the world.

The committee will submit a report to the upcoming summit of the six member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) in light of the developments that might take place from now up to next December, Ben Alawi said.

New routes for KPTC

KUWAIT'S Public Transportation Company will open new routes, increase the number of operating buses for the Ministry of Education, and modernise the company's buses, a senior official said.

Speaking to a local daily, deputy acting director for transportation and operation affairs at the company Issam Mubarak Al Refai said that public transportation has become an essential part in the lives of residents and consequently the company operates over 2,000 vehicles daily.

He indicated that there was a very good response

from hajjis for company's buses this season and that a total of 120 buses were mobilised for the haj season along with ambulances, emergency vehicles and supportive technical facilities.

Umra trips which are expected to begin in September have been earmarked for the supply of new and modern buses.

The new services available at the marine routes have seen good response and has been instrumental in sending touristic buses to Failaka Island, Refai said.

From the courts

Brothers get 6 months RI, fined for theft

THE Criminal Court sentenced two brothers to six months rigorous imprisonment and a bail of KD 500 each. They also have to pay KD 5001 compensation to the plaintiff on the charge of stealing steel pipes, aluminium and lead materials from a store belonging to the plaintiff.

The plaintiff and one of the defendants were partners in a company but separated after a dispute. The plaintiff accused his partner of stealing steel pipes and other materials from his own store in co-operation with his brother who was working as an accountant. He claimed that the stolen materials cost about KD 1.5 million. He added that defendants sold the stolen materials to a private company without his approval. The partner however denied the charge and claimed that store belongs to him and not to the plaintiff. He also claimed that the plaintiff was working in his company as director which gave him access to the store and some company receipts.

The court however studied the documents and investigations showed that the stolen stock and the store belonged to the plaintiff. This was also proved by the driver who carried the stocks from the store to another store belonging to the defendant. It was also proved by documents submitted by the plaintiff that they rented the store. The defendants could not submit any proof that they rented the store. The court was assured that the defendants stole the material.

Two sentenced for forgery: The Criminal Court sentenced two persons who were friends to three years rigorous imprisonment on charges of forgery.

The court was told that the first accused who used to work at the General Traffic Department in the Ahmadi Governorate offered to bring a driving licence for his friend without the need to pass a driving test.

The second defendant filled in the required form and the next day the licence was delivered.

Suspecting the authenticity of the licence, the second defendant went to ascertain its genuineness. However, he was promptly arrested as the licence was forged. He was convicted as being an accessory to the fraud.

Court orders repayment: The court ordered the seller of a building to repay the purchase of the sale amount of KD 4,41,000 for having illegally induced the sale.

The court was told that the first owner converted the residential building from the original eight flats to 16 without obtaining permission from Kuwait Municipality.

The purchaser on being notified that his building was legally comprised of only eight flats, called on the seller to repay the amount and consider the transaction as "no sale." However, the seller refused and the plaintiff went to court.



Safir expands further in Egypt

The Cairo based Hotel Management Company "Safir" which is owned by Kuwait Hotels Company announced some dynamic development plans during a contract renewal signing ceremony at the Safir Cairo Hotel.

Under Safir's management in Cairo are 2 major hotel projects, namely the 280 bedroom — 5 star deluxe Safir Hotel and the impressive 30 storey Safir Zamalek Suites Hotel, which consists of 104 magnificently furnished suites, duplexes and penthouse suites.

The contract was signed by the Chairman of Kuwait Real Estate Investment Consortium, Rashid Abdulla Al Mijren Al Roumi and the Chairman of Safir International, Ali Ahmed Al Ghanim Al Jaber.

The group's new development plans include for Safir Cairo, a new extension, including shopping, banquet facilities and parking. To increase accessibility of the property, the main entrance will be moved to the garden side (Midan Messaha) of the hotel.

Safir Zamalek added recently an Italian speciality restaurant to its services and plans for a different room set-up and facilities are presently under consideration.

Additionally Safir has large interests in the Abou Nawas Hotels group in Tunisia. The Abou Nawas group operates 13 properties in different locations in Tunisia and Algeria.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WHEN you have got a thing where you want it, it is a good thing to leave it where it is — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

Peace marked decade's end

Mideast strife stubborn

By Augustus Richard Norton

CONSIDERING the shrill invective which marked much of the 1980s, the decade ended with some mellow episodes of political accommodation and peacemaking. In particular, the dampening of conflicts in Central America and Southeast and Southwest Asia spring to mind.

Any list of the decade's notable accomplishments would have included the Namibia settlement, and the general, if uneven, progress toward peace in southern Africa. The return of representative government to Chile and Nicaragua, both presaged as the 1980s closed, are among the decade's highlights.

But persistent, stubborn conflicts, especially in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, show little hint of ending. The conflict in Lebanon descended yet a few more steps into the basement of horrors. The all but unnoticed carnage in southern Sudan and the dying in Ethiopia just go on and on.

These conflicts — each in their own way — illustrate a major danger of the 1990s: the spreading of inter-ethnic and inter-communal combat exacerbated by the unpredictable, but unavoidable process of modernisation.

At the same time, the disappearance of a bipolar, superpower-dominated security system will foster a more unruly international regime. Third players may try to throw around their weight. Anarchic tendencies in the international system are fed by the global dispersion of sophisticated and lethal military technology through licensing arrangements and the development of indigenous arms productions capabilities.

Missiles

As many as 15 Third World armies possess ballistic missiles, and about 10 others have active missile development programmes. Thought must be given to how the proliferation of these technologies will affect the nature of combat in the Third World. Military staffs around the world undoubtedly noted that the use of inaccurate Scud missiles by Iraq against Tehran had a decisive effect on Iran's willingness to accept UN Resolution 598.

Persistent regional and internal conflicts, as well as the axiomatic determination to protect national sovereignty, will ensure that defence will continue to consume a disproportionate share of Third World income.

Many developing countries now possess the means to thwart limited military operations, thereby rendering military solutions (i.e. intervention) less attractive to, and certainly more costly for, the great powers.

Third World politicians confront rapidly increasing populations whose demands exceed the ability of their governments to deliver. Demographic pressures accelerate the impact of social and economic change. Throughout the world, but especially in the developing countries, the economically productive segment of the population is shrinking while the elderly and young increase.

In the developed world the major trend has been toward graying of society — mean ages have increased and the proportion of the citizenry that is elderly is growing. In most developing countries, however, the most significant effect has been on the other end of the chronological scale. Improved health care and lower infant mortality rates, accompanied by high birth rates, have led to explosive increases in the number of children. In many Third World states half or more of the population is below the age of fifteen.

In already difficult economic circumstances, the portion of the population prone toward activism is expanding quickly, thereby further complicating the task of government and increasing the likelihood of repression.

Struggle

In many parts of the world where progress was once at least a dream, the struggle has now shifted to avoiding regression. In a nutshell, socio-economic change will continue to increase demands on already exhausted governments. This resource-demand gap, in turn, will inevitably add to internal cleavages along religious, ethnic, regional, or tribal fault lines. In many cases governments will further exacerbate tensions and deepen cleavages by promoting one group over another.

Everything we know about the Third World tells us the engine of change does not sever people's ties to family, lineage, and village. Rather, it reinforces those ties. Even that presumed cauldron of modernity, the city, becomes an extension of the values of the countryside. The stresses, strains, and crowding of the city create new passions for real and artificial national identities.

There can be no question that the spread of new ideologies, often grounded in religion, have promoted a resurfacing of identities and political agendas. Whether in the form of liberation theology, radical Shiism or Judaism, or militant Sikhism, religion continues to gain momentum as a factor in Third World politics.

Those of us living in the fortunate, profligate West, may be inclined to try and forget the developing world. But the problems which dog Third World governments — building cohesive societies, winning legitimacy, and meeting the basic needs of citizens — will not always respect borders or be quickly resolved. In point of fact, it is a safe bet that the global agenda for the 1990s will be shaped largely by the imperative of responding to Third World crises.

Augustus Richard Norton is senior research fellow at the International Peace Academy. He recently presented these comments to a meeting sponsored by the World Peace Foundation and the Institute of International Studies, Brown University.

The Christian Science Monitor Publishing Society.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1030 — King Olaf, patron saint of Norway, is killed in battle.
- 1499 — Lepanto in Greece surrenders to forces of Turkey's sultan.
- 1656 — Mary Queen of Scots marries Henry, Lord Darnley, in Edinburgh.
- 1656 — Poles under John Casimir are defeated at Warsaw by combined Swedish-Brandenburg forces.
- 1696 — Russia's Peter the Great takes Azov from the Turks.
- 1900 — Italy's King Humbert I is assassinated by an anarchist.
- 1921 — All-India Congress decides to boycott Prince of Wales' visit to India.
- 1922 — Allied powers issue ultimatum forbidding Greeks to occupy Constantinople (Istanbul).
- 1937 — Japanese seize Tientsin in China; 18-year-old Crown Prince Farouk is invested as king of Egypt.
- 1940 — Germany's all-out blitz against Britain begins in World War II.
- 1959 — Hawaii votes for first time as one of United States, and elects first Orientals to be seated in US Congress.
- 1973 — Voters in Greece endorse decisions by their leaders to abolish Greek monarchy and install George Papadopoulos as president.
- 1986 — South Africa's President P.W. Botha rejects British foreign secretary's plea for unconditional release of Nelson Mandela.
- 1989 — Israeli officials defend abduction of a pro-Iranian Muslim cleric.



Akihito sitting in a palace chamber in ancient costume as chamberlains stand by his side. (Rauter wirephoto)

Formal enthronement preparation underway

Japan debates Akihito nature

TOKYO, (CSM): As a "symbol" of the nation, a role assigned to him by the constitution, the new emperor of Japan is preparing for his formal enthronement this fall amid a national debate over his very nature.

The debate centres on Emperor Akihito's use of \$14.3 million in government money to arrange a secret and nocturnal religious rite that some scholars claim will place him briefly with the deities of Japan's ancient Shinto faith.

Both the enthronement and the religious ritual, planned for November with dozens of foreign dignitaries present, will come nearly two years after the passing of Akihito's controversial father, Hirohito, whose own succession ceremonies took place in 1928.

Critics charge that the rite bestows a heavenly status to the emperor as a "living god," a centuries-old Shinto belief that was taught before World War II and used to rally people behind the Imperial Army.

To prevent the emperor from being used again for military or political purposes, United States occupation officials gave him a constitutional status as a symbol of the state, "deriving his position from the will of the people with whom resides sovereign power." Shintoism itself, a nature-worshipping faith with its own priesthood (only one of many religions in Japan), was also severed from state control.

But such changes on paper have not completely altered long-held beliefs and traditions that surround the emperor. For many Japanese, the issue of whether to publicly fund or even hold the Shinto ritual, known as Daijosei, has evoked emotions as deep as those felt by many US citizens over the issue of whether their national symbol, the US flag, can be burned in protest.

This Daijosei, in which the emperor will offer

specially grown rice to Shinto deities and his ancestors during the night of Nov 22 inside an imperial shrine, will be the first held under the post-war constitution.

A January poll of 3,000 Japanese by Mainichi newspaper showed 29 per cent supported the government funding, while 16 per cent said the affair should be privately held. Another 23 per cent did not care.

Some nationalists and right-wing groups plan to use the event to attack the American-imposed constitution and its limits on the emperor.

"For an emperor to establish his authority, he must go through Daijosei," says Shusuke Nomura, a prominent nationalist. The US-imposed constitution, especially its restraint on the emperor and rearmament, is "like a kimono that doesn't fit Japan."

One leftist group, Middle Core Faction, promises to "crush the coronation." Many scholars, mainly Christian, are challenging the legality of the rite as being in violation of the constitution's separation of religion and state.

"Holding the Daijosei implies that the emperor's legitimacy derives from the mythical Japanese sun-goddess (called Amaterasu)," says Kanichi Fukuda, president of Meiji Gakuin University. "Some scholars say the emperor actually enters the womb of the sun-goddess."

Consecrate

"Why should we consecrate the emperor and make him more than a common human?" he asks. To defy the emperor "will inevitably invite the suspicions of those neighbouring countries to which Japan, under the guise of imperial divine sovereignty, caused such tremendous suffering," according to an April statement issued by presidents of four Japanese universities.

One justification offered by the government to

fund Daijosei is that the event is similar to an American President-elect placing his hand on the Bible for the inauguration.

"Daijosei is an important ritual and part of the long tradition of the Imperial Household," says Nohuo Ishihara, deputy chief cabinet secretary. "The government is not in any position to say whether the emperor becomes a deity."

To defend itself against a possible court challenge, the government contends that Daijosei is a traditional part of the hereditary succession and enthronement of the emperor, which are provided for in the constitution.

But says Professor Fukuda, "The government has no legal basis for Daijosei, therefore it can only appeal to tradition." State funding of the rite might have been avoided by appealing for private money, some scholars suggest.

In 1947, during the US occupation, mention of the ritual was eliminated from the Imperial Household Law, which governs the emperor's activities.

Nonetheless, the emperor's activities are controlled by the emperor's approval, as a "public" event, although not with the same status as the enthronement itself, which takes place Nov 12 as a "state" ceremony.

Debate over the Daijosei has been somewhat muted due to a fear of right-wing groups attacking those who openly question the emperor or the emperor system. Earlier this year, the mayor of Nagasaki was shot by an ultranationalist after the mayor criticised the wartime role of Hirohito.

Partly out of fear of reprisal and partly in deference to the emperor, almost all Japanese have not questioned the legality of Daijosei in their editorials, although outside writers have been invited to express opinions.

Franco-Iranian feud assuages

Mitterrand exercises power of pardon

PARIS, (Reuters): France's decision to pardon a pro-Iranian Lebanese gunman on Friday has removed a major obstacle blocking better relations with Tehran.

The release of Anis Naccache has been at the heart of diplomatic bargaining between the two countries over a nagging financial dispute.

French officials refused to say on Friday what persuaded President Francois Mitterrand to exercise his power of pardon allowing Naccache and four accomplices to step on an Iran Air flight to Tehran.

"We have absolutely no comment to make about the decision," one Mitterrand aide said.

The official silence was bound to feed speculation that the pardon was linked to complex negotiations over repayment of the late Shah of Iran's one-billion dollar loan to Eurodif, a French nuclear energy consortium.

Negotiations began in September 1989, marking the end of a poisonous chapter in relations which began shortly after Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution and included a break in diplomatic ties.

The Naccache affair has been a long-running source of conflict. He and his four-man guerrilla team were arrested in Paris in 1980 after killing policeman and a bystander during a failed assassination attempt on Shapur Bakhtiar, the Shah's last prime minister.



Mitterrand ... released Naccache

Naccache and three others were given life sentences and a fifth was jailed for 20 years in 1982.

The talks in Paris and Tehran between Francois Mitterrand, the top diplomat at the French Foreign Ministry, and Iran's deputy Foreign Minister Mab-

moud Vaezi, have been conducted in total secrecy.

The two last met in Paris on July 10, when French officials said publicly they did not discuss Naccache. Similar denials in the past have been greeted with scepticism.

The Iranian side however, publicly called for Naccache's release, accusing France of reneging on a deal made in 1988, before adopting a more discreet position.

Tehran says former conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac agreed to free Naccache and his accomplices in return for the release of four French hostages held by pro-Iranian captors in Lebanon. Chirac denies he made such an undertaking.

The way is now clear for progress in the row over the Shah's loan to France's Atomic Energy Commission in 1974 for the Eurodif programme, under which French companies would build nuclear power plants and Iran would buy enriched uranium to power them.

After the Shah's fall Iran suspended the programme and demanded the loan be repaid. France has so far given back \$670 million but held up the rest until Iran settles French claims for breach of contract.

A French appeal court helped improve the climate last March, when it rejected claims totalling more than one billion dollars by French companies which lost business.

Safe driving

SIR: I would like to comment on a catastrophic situation highly prevalent in Kuwait. There have been numerous days when returning from the city to my place of residence in Fintas that I see demolished cars along the roadside. It was only tonight that I actually saw the victims of one of those accidents. A small family with two young children, all parties seriously injured. I'm quite thankful to be alive, it could easily have been me and my family as well.

Why is it that as often as I use Fahad Highway, I've never seen a police monitoring the area for speeding violations? Where are the police? What are they doing? I read the police report daily and see very few incidents that could

prevent an entire watch from patrolling the area.

It's not like my country where heinous crimes are on the rampage. Here it is the contrary! Speeding is more a problem here daily taking along the lives of innocent people who have families. We all saw Street Wars and I'm aware that this in itself won't alleviate the problem, but something has got to be done about it. Besides doesn't everyone know a little effort is better than none at all? The odds are the person caught speeding and charged, saved the lives of potential victims down the road. That very well might be only one life saved. But what is the value of life? Can we put a price on it?

In concluding I propose that not only radar checkpoints be situated along the highway, but that more strenuous charges also be applied. It is of my opinion that most violators are teenagers

who liken it to an Atari game.

Perhaps offenders should have automatic licence suspension for six months, and repeat offenders removal of licences indefinitely until the person acquires a reputable record of responsibility, say a job for example. In the meantime let's all buckle our seat belts and drive defensively.

Melinda F. Ali,
Fintas.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

S. Africa

Law bending creates black suburban area

SPRUITVIEW, South Africa, (CSM): From a distance, Ezra and Veronica Hlubi's neighbourhood resembles many small, modern communities in the United States heartland. A water tower rises 50 feet above rolling grassland; capital letters on the tower announce to visitors that they've arrived — in Spruitview.

But the Hlubi family truly has arrived. They live in one of the first (and few) black suburban residential areas in South Africa.

Spruitview is almost equidistant from the crowded black township of Soweto and the whites-only suburbs of Johannesburg. For black South Africans it represents a rare opportunity — the chance to own property. South African law still forbids black ownership of land in areas designated for whites — about 87 per cent of the country.

A few blacks have moved into white neighbourhoods, but only through a back-door process in which they must set up partnerships with whites who then, legally, own the property.

Spruitview is an exception. In 1985, after riots in Soweto, the white South African government passed a law bending apartheid land restrictions and allowing Spruitview to be created. The legislation gave a white law firm — Joel, Melamed & Hurwitz — the right to develop and sell property to blacks in an area previously reserved for whites. This 1985 act of Parliament allows up to 3,000 one-acre sites in Spruitview. The Hlubis bought land and built a home here in 1986 — 1,500 square feet of space on an acre of tranquillity.

"It's much quieter here," says 15-year-old Nokazi Hlubi. "The homes are bigger and you can own your own land, and do what you want with it ... you're not all squashed in like Soweto."

Spruitview is populated by families like the Hlubis; blacks who have managed to do well despite rigid racial segregation and the repression of apartheid laws. Those statutes still bar blacks from even the less expensive white neighbourhoods, where their money would buy more property and better homes.

Home sites in Spruitview cost as much as 25,000 rand (about \$10,000). With construction costs the final price tag can top \$60,000. Consequently, only 600 of the 3,000 home sites have been sold. "The people who live here probably represent the top 1 per cent of black income earners," says Rich Mkhondo, a Reuters reporter living in Spruitview.

Unlike many of their more prosperous neighbours, the Hlubis aren't always sure where the money will come from to pay the bills. Veronica Hlubi is a nurse, who works exhausting 16-hour days on two jobs. "I need a rest too," she says, "but there's nothing I can do. There are times when I'm so tired I want to cry ... but when I think of my kids, I carry on."

Like many Spruitview neighbours, the Hlubis live somewhere between the worlds of black and white South Africa. This provides a rare view into both societies — a vision that can be painful. "I feel very bitter because now I can see what the black nation has been deprived of for decades," says Ezra Hlubi. Perhaps nowhere is apartheid's legacy more bitter than in the classroom where, for the last 12 years, Hlubi has spent his days teaching.

Black schools still receive only one-fifth the money, per pupil, given to white schools. That translates into fewer facilities, less attention, and more frustration for dedicated teachers like Hlubi. "What can you call a school without a library?" he asks. Hlubi is a high school teacher and instructs his teenage students in everything from math to geography (without a globe). He has as many as 75 pupils per class.

Now Hlubi can afford to do better for his children by sending them to integrated private schools. He hesitates to abandon the black schools that he is a part of, but he's equally concerned that his children get the best start.

Elder daughter Nokwazi attends St Mary's School, an Anglican girls high school in Johannesburg. Substandard early training in Soweto schools made the adjustment difficult academically. Still, Nokwazi hasn't looked back.

There have also been social adjustments for Nokwazi, who now attends parties at her white classmates' homes. She's made several close friends — although none have come to visit her Spruitview home. Mrs Hlubi looks at her daughter's integration with some suspicion.

"From 8 o'clock in the morning to 4 o'clock she is taking in a white culture, but I tell her not to lose her Zulu roots," Mrs Hlubi also speaks, with hope, about true cross-pollination between white and black South Africa. "I tell Nokwazi that she is building a new South Africa which means that whites have got to inherit our black culture too."

For Hlubi, moving to Spruitview was only the beginning of changes he hopes to see. "For all my children, I want a free South Africa, freedom of thought, freedom of speech, the same freedom the white man is enjoying in my country."

Mrs Hlubi also wants more for her family. After years of study she is finally a nursing manager, supervising many whites who are not college educated. She remembers how a co-worker once boasted, "My white skin is the only diploma I need."

She views her family's success as fragile and expresses concern that the white minority will never cede privilege or share wealth. "After enjoying so much luxury, who could really let you come down and say, 'All right, I will share my plate of food with you.' Is that possible?"

QUOTE ME

"Personally, I believe that perhaps in the West there is the illusion that by making concessions, certain accommodations to what one calls the (Iranian) moderates, the moderate clergy will win. This is an illusion. In my opinion it will disappear." — Bakhtiar on the release of Naccache and five others to the Iranian government.

"This is our first election. There are some shortcomings and bumps, but it's been comparatively fair and free." — Mongolian Prime Minister Shartbayn Gungadorj.

"This man (Doe) is the devil. You are the bosses now. Get him now before he gets you." — Charles Taylor on Liberian leader Samuel Doe.

قوله الحق

OIC experts adopt agenda for ministerial meeting in Cairo

CAIRO, July 28, (Agencies): Political experts representing 45 Islamic countries today met and approved the draft agenda for the annual 19th conference for foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Chairman of the meetings, head of the Egyptian delegation Amr Moussa said the ministerial meeting will be held at a time of radical changes in international relations.

He pointed out that Islamic nations should pool together their potentials to achieve continuous co-operation.

Conference sources told Kuna that four committees for political, media, economy and social, cultural and financial and administrative affairs were formed today to prepare

for the foreign ministers' meeting due to open here Tuesday.

The political committee for the foreign ministers conference will chiefly discuss the Palestinian uprising, the Soviet Jews mass emigration to the occupied Arab lands and the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon and the Golan Heights.

He further said the committee talks may include the Iraq-Iran peace talks within the agenda.

The United States' threats to Libya and dumping of nuclear wastes in Islamic countries will also be discussed by the chief diplomats of the Islamic countries.

Political experts elected Senegal to

represent Africa, Turkey the Asian group and Palestine from the Arab group as co-chairmen of the OIC ministerial conference.

Syria wants Muslim countries to unite in resisting US-led efforts to get the United Nations to revoke a resolution equating Zionism with racism, a senior Egyptian official said today.

The disclosure came as experts from the 45 members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference met and adopted an agenda for the 19th annual foreign ministers meeting opening in Cairo next Tuesday.

The 85-item agenda also included the burning issue of Kashmir which threatens a new military confrontation between Pakistan and

India.

Moussa, who chaired the experts session, told reporters about the Syrian proposal, which was included in the agenda along with a Jordan-requested item on the same subject.

The UN resolution, adopted by the General Assembly in 1975, was strongly opposed by Israel, the United States and other Western countries. Arab, communist and many Third World countries approved it. It could not be blocked because the big powers have no veto in the assembly.

With strong congressional support, Washington has been trying to marshal enough backing among UN members to scrap the resolution.

The Syrian move is virtually certain to win overwhelming support at the Cairo meeting. All the Arab League's 22 members belong to OIC. Most or all others in the Islamic group back the Arabs in the conflict with Israel.

Agenda items with an anti-American ring included the US "aggression" against Libya and the "strategic alliance" between the United States and Israel. It was not clear whether the word "aggression" referred to a general American policy trend or specifically the US punitive air attacks on Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986 after a terrorist bombing in West Germany blamed on Libya.

Anti-Israel items included the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants into the Jewish

state and their settlement in occupied Arab lands, the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza and "contesting Israel's UN credentials."

Previous challenges to Israel's credentials have failed and some OIC members are known to oppose this. They include Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

The agenda also included customary fixtures like the Palestinian problem, the status of Jerusalem, Lebanon's civil war, the Iraq-Iran dispute, the situation in Afghanistan and Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries, including the Philippines.

Neeman backs off chem arms claims

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 28, (AP): Science Minister Yuval Neeman backed away today from his call for Israel to respond in kind to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's threats to use chemical weapons.

In the most far-reaching statement by an Israeli leader on the subject, Neeman said yesterday that Israel was ready to counter Iraqi threats.

"In my opinion, we have an excellent response, and that is to threaten (Saddam) Hussein with the same merchandise," said Neeman in an interview on Israel radio.

"And if there is an enemy like this, it is possible to prepare a suitable response," Neeman, who is also head of Israel's space programme said. "I have no doubt that also today we can respond to a threat like this."

Neeman's warning was the latest in a "war of words" started by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein when he said in April he would torch half of Israel with binary chemical weapons if attacked with nuclear arms by the Jewish state.

Israel is widely believed to have chemical weapons, but officials have never admitted it. A source in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office indicated yesterday that Shamir was displeased with Neeman's declaration and meant to discuss the radio interview with him.

Neeman said today that he had been misunderstood.

"I think the whole thing was taken out of context," the 65-year-old Neeman said on Israel radio.

"What I said was that the answer should be in kind. In kind could be heavy bombardments by our excellent air force... I did say that it is no problem to produce chemical weapons but I did not call on Israel to start producing them."

However, Neeman, who served both as deputy director of army intelligence and scientific director of Israel's atomic energy programme, answered a direct question of whether Israel possessed such arms with, "that question should be asked of the minister of defence."

Defence Minister Moshe Arens also stepped up rhetoric against Iraq this week by saying the Iraqi threats have increased the likelihood of war.

Some analysts said Arens was trying to rally US support at a time when Congress is debating wide-ranging cuts in military spending that could affect Israel.

Dr Dore Gold, director of the US foreign and defence policy project at the Jaffe Centre of Strategic Studies said Israel's deterrent posture in the Middle East could be damaged if the Arab states perceived further strain in Israel-US relations.

US-Israel relations grew tense after Israel rejected US compromises aimed at advancing Middle East peace and after US made comments opposing the continued settlement of Jews in the occupied territories.

"The overall impression has been a declining relationship surrounding disagreements on the Palestinian issue which has damaged deterrence, Israel's deterrence of Arab states like Iraq, less so Syria," Gold said.

"If that process continues of a public display of tactical differences on the peace process then Israel-US common strategic objectives in deterring war can be undermined."

Saddam Hussein's remarks in April came after several Iraqis were arrested in London trying to smuggle US-made electronic devices that could be used to trigger nuclear weapons.

The United States said yesterday it would discuss with Israel claims by its science minister that the Jewish state had the chemical weapons capability to respond to Iraqi threats.

"We've seen those reports and we will be taking up the subject with the government of Israel," the State Department said in a terse written statement.

The department press office said it was unable to elaborate further.

A US official said it marked the first time Israel had publicly admitted its chemical weapons capability.

PLO, Amal launch 3-pronged assault

24 killed in battles for Hezbollah-held village

SIDON, July 28, (Agencies): Palestinian fighters joined ground battles in the inter-Shi'ite war in south Lebanon for the first time today, helping Amal fighters drive into a village held by their Hezbollah rivals.

Security sources said at least 24 people were killed and 80 wounded when the pro-Syrian militiamen and fighters loyal to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat launched a major assault on Kfar Milki, held by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

The three-pronged attack, carried out under a hail of artillery, rocket



An old armed pro-Iranian Hezbollah militant guards the funeral of his comrade, who died in battles against pro-Syrian Amal militia in south Lebanon. (Reuter wirephoto)

and mortar fire, gained part of the village for Amal by noon, the sources said.

"The combatants at Kfar Milki and nearby hills are fighting metres away from each other," said one source, 12 hours after the battle erupted.

The sources said it was the first time PLO men had joined a major offensive in the war for control of the Iqlim Al Tufah area just north of Israel's self-declared security zone.

Aoun calls for change in Taif agreement

BEIRUT, July 28, (UPI): Defiant Christian Gen. Michel Aoun yesterday demanded changes on an internationally backed peace accord as pro-Syrian Prime Minister Selim Hoss warned to take measures aimed at forcing the commander of 15,000 troops to relinquish powers.

The 54-year-old officer made his stand after holding four closed-door sessions with special Arab League envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, who offered to persuade the general to accept the so-called Taif accord unconditionally.

Lebanon's parliament worked out a peace agreement to end the 15-year-old civil war on July 16 when Hezbollah captured the strategic village of Jarjoub. Since then, the pro-Iranian militiamen have pushed back two major attempts by Aoun to retake the village.

Aoun has denied receiving help from Palestinian fighters while saying that Iranian Revolutionary Guards are supporting Hezbollah.

The Revolutionary Guards command has denied involvement and urged both sides to stop the fighting in which more than 162 people have been killed and 350 wounded.

Aoun did not refer to the reported Palestinian involvement in the fighting and the police spokesman said Arafat's fighters have "sealed off" the confrontation zone preventing policemen and news reporters from monitoring combat developments.

He said, however, that four dead Palestinian and 27 wounded were evacuated from the Kfar Milki region to hospitals in Sidon.

"The Palestinians are obviously involved in the fighting, but we can't establish whether they are taking part in ground attacks or just participating in the shelling duels with Hezbollah gunners," the police spokesman said.

Thousands of villagers have fled the area fearing an Israeli invasion after the Palestinian deployment.

Israel and its local militia ally, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), have holed up positions overlooking Iqlim Al Tufah and have occasionally shelled Amal, Hezbollah and Palestinian positions.

Amal and Hezbollah, vying for leadership of Lebanon's 1.3 million Shi'ites, have been fighting intermittently for three years in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon. More than 1,100 people have been killed.

The plan had been relayed to Aoun by Ali Ibrahim who was turned down by Aoun as a peace broker.

Aoun has insisted that Ali Ibrahim was only trying to market the Taif accord which the General continues to reject.

In a surprise visit to Damascus Thursday, Lebanese President Elias Hrawi was given assurances that Damascus will throw its weight behind the Lebanese government's move to discipline Aoun.

Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente last night launched the Vatican's latest effort to persuade Aoun to yield to the peace drive and to accept the government's call for all militias to put down their arms and join the government in trying to pacify the country.

Army (SLA) militia allies — referred to by the United Nations as the "de facto forces" (DFF) — carried out many air and artillery strike on targets north of the UN zone, he added.

He also gave a detailed account of recent incidents between Israeli troops trying to build a road in the eastern part of the UN zone and Norwegian UN soldiers attempting to block them. The Norwegian battalion sector is entirely within the Israeli-controlled area.

A Norwegian officer was injured on Monday when an Israeli bulldozer pushed aside three UN armoured per-

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Kurdish clashes: A total of 23 people were killed in two overnight clashes between troops and Kurdish separatists in southeast Turkey, Anatolian News Agency said today.

The semi-official agency said 18 rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), four soldiers and a village guard were killed in gunbattles in the mountainous provinces of Sirnak and Siirt. Three guerrillas were captured. (Reuter)

France probes arms racket: A French inquiry team left Lebanon for Paris today after investigating an arms smuggling scandal allegedly involving French embassy guards in Beirut.

The four officials, who arrived on Wednesday to probe how rocket launchers and other weapons were smuggled from Lebanon into France, declined to discuss their mission. (Reuter)

Explosion in Lebanon: A family of eight, including three children, was wounded overnight when a hand grenade was tossed into their house at a Palestinian refugee camp in south Lebanon, a security source said today.

The source said a mother and her three children were in critical condition following the bombing of the house at Rashidiyeh, near Tyre. (Reuter)

Arab women meet: Arab women from 22 countries will be participating in the Arab women's federation conference due to be held Sept 10-13 in Tunis.

The conference will discuss the future of Arab women, their integration and contribution to society and examine means of providing better social and economic conditions for Arab women. (Kuna)

Tunis front arrests: Tunisian police have arrested six people for forming an illegal organisation called the Islamic Front, the government newspaper La Presse said today.

The aim of the organisation, which was based in the south Tunis suburb of Hammam-Lif, was "to unite all the Muslims in the world," a Tunis court was told on Thursday. (Reuter)

Chinese minister in Algiers: Chinese Foreign Minister Qiao Qubai arrived in Algiers today on the last stage of a Middle East tour.

Qiao, who has already been to Cyprus, Saudi Arabia and Morocco, is on a visit which lasts till Monday, the official news agency APS said. (Reuter)

Iran drug ban: Iranian authorities seized seven tonnes of narcotics and arrested 14,000 people on drug-related offences during June and July Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported today.

The agency said the tally was submitted to President Hashemi Rafsanjani in a report by Information Minister Ali Fallahian.

All Iranian drug users jailed for their addiction will be sent to a rehabilitation camp on a remote Gulf island, the Iran said. (AP)

Iran Aids deaths: Iran reported yesterday that 11 Iranians have died of AIDS so far and 138 carry the virus believed to, cause the disease.

Iran news agency quoted the head of Iran's blood

transfusion organisation, Dr Ahar Milaninya, as saying the carriers were haemophiliacs who had used blood imported before 1983, when Iran began testing it for the virus. (Reuter)

Yemenis to vote on constitution: Yemen has set Nov 30 as the date for a referendum on its new unity constitution, the Speaker of the parliament was quoted today as saying.

"The parliament is currently studying the constitution, which will be put to a referendum on Nov 30," Yassin-Said Nouman told the Abu Dhabi-based Al Ithad newspaper. (Reuter)

Policeman killed in Istanbul: Four gunmen stormed the Istanbul home of a newly-wed policeman today and shot him dead, claiming the killing on behalf of the extreme leftist group Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left).

Police said Ismail Kili, married three days ago, was killed by a single bullet. The gunman left a note in his apartment and fled in a car.

Police said several suspects had been detained but refused to give further details. (Reuter)

Israeli copter crash-lands: Israel's aircraft industry said an unmanned helicopter it unveiled earlier this week had crash-landed during a test flight yesterday.

The surveillance craft, named the Hellstar, was damaged when it fell from a low altitude due to a system failure, Israel Aircraft Industries said.

It said the Hellstar, said by Israel to be the world's first pilotless helicopter, had its first successful trial on June 18. (Reuter)

US to re-open embassy: The US will reopen its diplomatic mission in the Lebanese capital during next week, diplomatic sources said in Beirut today.

The sources told Kuna the US administration of President George Bush has ordered the local embassy staff to report to duty as of early next week pending arrival of the new ambassador Brian Crocker, who will take up temporary residence in Cyprus. (Kuna)

Rebel rockets hit Kabul: Mujahadeen fighting the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan fired eight rockets into the capital Kabul yesterday, killing four people and wounding 10, the official Kabul radio said.

The broadcast, monitored in the Pakistan capital Islamabad, said the US-built surface-to-surface missiles hit residential areas in three parts of the town, the frequent target of such attacks by the Western-backed mujahadeen. (Reuter)

Soviet note to Syria: Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara has received a message from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on the situation in the Middle East, officials said yesterday.

The message was delivered by the Soviet assistant foreign minister and special representative in the Middle East, Genadi Tarasov, who met Shara in Damascus. (Reuter)

Arafat sees plot to exclude PLO

BAGHDAD, July 28, (AP): Arafat warned today that Israel is trying to co-opt a Middle East peace conference excluding the PLO.

He said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has proposed to US President George Bush a peace conference to be attended by Israel and neighbouring Arab states without the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"There will be no peace, no stability and no security in the region if they (the Israelis) continue their attempts to go around the PLO," Arafat told a press conference in Baghdad.

He said the Israeli proposals were made in a letter sent by Shamir to Bush last month and later passed to concerned Arab governments.

"I can say that the new conspiracy was hatched in co-operation between Israel and some circles inside the US administration," Arafat said.

"It is an attempt to convene a meeting in Geneva without the PLO which is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," he said.

Arafat refused to give further details of the alleged Israeli proposals or whether they have been accepted by the Arab countries to whom they were sent.

But he indicated that they included the return of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for Syrian acceptance of PLO exclusion from the negotiations.

Officials in Washington have said that Shamir sent Bush a letter on the Middle East peace process last month but gave no details.

"We will never abandon our rights of self-determination to return to our land and establish an independent Palestinian state," Arafat said.

Arafat, in a rare letter to a US Jewish leader, has pledged to continue working towards peace in the Middle East and said he was confident the violence in the region could end.

The June 25 letter was released on Thursday by Menachem Rosensaft, the president of the US Labour Zionist Alliance, who was one of five American Jewish leaders who met Arafat in Stockholm in December 1988.

It came in response to an open letter to the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader from Rosensaft, published in Newsweek magazine in December, that called on Arafat to "renounce terrorism in fact, not just in rhetoric."

In the letter, Arafat said that although Rosensaft was "a prisoner of the stereotypes on the Palestinians" he hoped the Jewish leader would recognise the "historical compromise" made by the PLO.

Rosensaft said the letter was significant in that "the tone is positive. It shows an unequivocal commitment to the peace process."

Call for world moot on Mideast

AMMAN, July 28, (Reuters): Jordan and Egypt today reiterated their call for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The state-run Jordanian news agency Petra quoted Prime Minister Mudar Badran and his Egyptian counterpart Atef Sedki as saying the proposed talks should be held on the basis of UN resolutions that guarantee the exchange of land for peace.

The agency gave no details, but officials said the two men also exchanged views on Iraq's oil dispute with Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates and on Cairo's efforts to mediate between the two Gulf states.

Sedki and Badran co-chaired the opening session of a two-day meeting of a joint committee on co-operation on a wide range of fields including economic links, agriculture and tourism.

Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and Iraq are members of the four-nation Arab Co-operation Council, an economic bloc formed in February.

The committee, in its two-day deliberations, will discuss achievements in economy, trade, culture and media co-operation within their joint establishments. They will also discuss Arab problems and co-ordination of their stances towards these issues.

Sedki met with Jordanian monarch King Hussein and handed him a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak dealing with current Arab situation and bilateral relations, an official report said.

Israeli held area of Lebanon seen increasingly separated: UN report

UNITED NATIONS, July 28, (Reuters): The Israeli-controlled area of southern Lebanon is becoming increasingly separated from the rest of the country, but the United Nations has found no evidence that Lebanese water is being diverted to Israel, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said on Friday.

In a written report to the Security Council on the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil), he also said there were fewer hostile incidents in the UN area during the past six months than during the same period last year.

But Israel and its South Lebanon

Army (SLA) militia allies — referred to by the United Nations as the "de facto forces" (DFF) — carried out many air and artillery strike on targets north of the UN zone, he added.

He also gave a detailed account of recent incidents between Israeli troops trying to build a road in the eastern part of the UN zone and Norwegian UN soldiers attempting to block them. The Norwegian battalion sector is entirely within the Israeli-controlled area.

A Norwegian officer was injured on Monday when an Israeli bulldozer pushed aside three UN armoured per-

sonnel carriers placed in its path. A UN bulldozer was then placed in front of the Israeli bulldozer but was withdrawn after an Israeli tank threatened to fire at it, the report said.

Perez de Cuellar said prospects for keeping the area peaceful would greatly improve if Israeli forces did not operate in it. But if they insisted on doing so, it might be necessary for the Security Council to consider whether Unifil's role in that area should be changed.

The Council is due to meet next Tuesday to renew the mandate of Unifil, comprising 5,842 troops from nine countries

— Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Nepal, Norway and Sweden.

The force was set up in 1978 to oversee the withdrawal of Israeli forces who invaded southern Lebanon earlier that year and to help restore the authority of the Beirut government.

The UN area partly overlaps a so-called "security zone" manned by Israel and the SLA since 1985, when most of the Israeli troops who again invaded Lebanon in 1982 withdrew.

Recommending a further six-month renewal of Unifil, as urged by Lebanon, Perez de Cuellar said Israel considered its

presence in south Lebanon a temporary arrangement as long as the Beirut government was unable to exercise effective authority and prevent its territory from being used to launch attacks against northern Israel.

Noting Israel was continuing to build up the SLA and to improve its own ability to reinforce Israeli troops quickly inside Lebanon, he said:

"A consequence of this policy is that the Israeli-controlled area is becoming increasingly separated from the rest of Lebanon."

EVENTS

Meet a neighbour

Yuko Shimmura

A traditionalist at heart

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

SOFT-SPOKEN Japanese housewife Yuko Shimmura feels at home in the Arab world. A linguist, she mastered Arabic during her stay in Cairo with her diplomat husband Izuru Shimmura.

Shimmura, who has completed his term of duty in Kuwait, will be leaving with his wife later next month.

During her stay in Kuwait, Yuko occupied herself by taking more Arabic lessons to brush up her knowledge. "Learning foreign languages opens communications with other people," she said.

Determined not to be left behind in her quest of learning about people, Yuko who has a bachelor's degree in linguistics, studied Arabic during her husband's first sojourn in the Arab world. After that, it was a matter of time before she picked up classical Arabic. She spoke to me in fluent Arabic, talking about the days she spent in Cairo and Kuwait.

Memories of Cairo are a series of flashbacks to the metropolis — the heat, crowds, pyramids, shopping sprees, friends and the happy moments she spent exploring the country. She was particularly impressed by Luxor, where she spent hours exploring the history of Egypt, admiring the tombs of kings and the wealth they had stored.

Yuko's first introduction to classical Arabic was at the International Language Institute in Cairo. Although she struggled to master the intricacies of Arabic grammar, she admits her native language is much more difficult for foreigners.

When she is not brushing up her command of

Arabic, Yuko spends her time playing the piano, practising Chopin and Beethoven. And when the musical interlude tires her, she takes up handicrafts. Her home is decorated with beautiful pieces of flower arrangements, ranging from appliques to summery flower arrangements.

When she returns to Tokyo, she hopes to learn more about ikebana to keep alive the tradition of flower arrangements. She feels that the younger generation must absorb and extend such traditions. Petite and feminine Yuko represents the modern Japanese woman: educated and Westernised. But at heart, she remains a traditionalist who is making the best of both the Oriental and Western cultures.

"Exposure to Western lifestyle has given me a better understanding of my own culture," she said. Japanese traditions are an intrinsic part of her life.

Fiercely independent, she is certainly not an archetypal submissive housewife and voices her strong opinions about the freedom and equality of the sexes. She believes in women's rights and independence.

Her travels have taken her to 16 countries from her native Sapporo City in Japan to the Pacific Ocean, including the Arab world.

Exposure to "exotic Arab culture was a once in a lifetime opportunity for Yuko who will cherish the memories of the warm, sunny days she spent in Cairo and Kuwait.

Although she was often homesick and missed her family, who live in Sapporo where the 1972 Olympic Winter Games were held, she made a bond with the new friends she acquired in Kuwait.

As she and her husband say farewell to Kuwait, she takes back memories of several people who opened up a new world for her.



Yuko Shimmura clad in a beautiful kimono.

Scrabble

Johnny and Rene on top

THE second and penultimate round of the preliminary stage of the ongoing All Filipino Tournament organised by the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (FILCHECK) was held on July 27, at the Kabayan Restaurant.

Johnny Diamante and Rene Castillo, who both earned three points in the first round, maintained their lead by outsmarting their opponents to clinch the top positions in Group A & B, respectively, with a total of 6 points each.

Playing at Table 3, Diamante was unstoppable after successfully placing all his seven tiles on his second turn with the word "untangle" which earned him 68 points, the highest individual score for this round. Despite attempts of early top contender Rory Aureliano to parry his breaks, Lady Luck was on Diamante's side who drew most of the high-valued letters.

All tables in Group A played with one player less after first round leader Rene Mostales (who dropped to 8th slot), Susan Habos, Delia Degala and Carol Magambol defaulted their games. As per tournament rules, defaulting time is 15 minutes from the official starting time.

In Group B Table 4, Zosi Tortosa made a phenomenal jump from number eight to second position after gaining additional scores at the end game and edged away Lani Salvado who dominated their game from the start.

Over at Table 1, with his opponents inevitably missing their turns for one reason or another, Sammy Aureliano survived his "pass-laden" batch with a win (3 points) to break away from number twelve to number sixth slot while Diony Bartolome managed to earn two points to rise from seventh to fifth position.

Group B first round leader Dolly Alojado suffered a setback with only a 1 point win behind Lhen Bantayan and Gil Flores at Table 3. Obviously, Dolly who was noted to be recuperating from a recent illness, couldn't contain the early lead posed by Lhen.

The final games of this preliminary round will be played on Friday, August 3 with Group A starting at 1.30 pm and Group B at 2.30 pm. The top 8 players in both groups will advance to the championship round to play another single round robin. The champion and its three runners-up will each receive a trophy donated by Al Nascent Freight Forwarders and valuable gift items courtesy of Shaab Corporation.

Standing GROUP A				
Rank	Player	Score	Points	
1.	Johnny Diamante	444	6	
2.	Al Manlangit	470	5	
3.	Larry Ortiz	435	5	
4.	Rory Aureliano	429	5	
5.	Silver Salvado	336	3	
6.	Ted Manlangit	348	3	
7.	Danny Gonzales	341	3	
8.	Rene Mostales	279	3	
9.	Lory Jovero	218	3	
10.	Jody de la Cruz	202	3	
11.	Susan Habos	117	2	
12.	Simple Belmonte	185	1	
13.	Babes Pascuala	179	1	
14.	Delia Degala	77	1	
15.	Joe de la Pena	72	1	
16.	Carol Magambol	18	0	

GROUP B				
Rank	Player	Score	Points	
1.	Rene Castillo	313	6	
2.	Sosi Tortosa	296	5	
3.	Danny Calasina	290	5	
4.	Dolly Alojado	290	4	
5.	Diony Bartolome	276	4	
6.	Sammy Aureliano	276	4	
7.	Marlon de la Cruz	255	4	
8.	Lani Salvado	289	3	
9.	Edwin Borigas	277	3	
10.	Lhen Bantayan	117	2	
11.	Gil Flores	242	2	
12.	Loures Vidal	226	2	
13.	Myrna Calibuso	220	1	
14.	Julian Flores	215	1	
15.	Felix Silit	210	1	
16.	Jun Pascana	148	0	

SCHEDULE OF GAMES: Third Round — Friday, August 3, 1990

Table	Group A (1.30 pm)	Group B (2.30 pm)
1.	Silver, Lory, Danny, Delia	Edwin, Marlon, Dolly, Zosi
2.	Simple, Jody, Joe, Carol	Danny, Diony, Myrna, Julian
3.	Ted, Rory, Rene, Susan	Gil, Lani, Sammy, Rene
4.	Johnny, Babes, Al, Larry	Felix, Lhen, Lourdes, Jun



Above and below, participants in deep thought during the second round match of the ongoing scrabble tournament.



Filipino fashion in Kuwait

Traditionally, Philippine linens have been known for their rustic and simple quality in cut and embroidery work. While some products remain simple, others have branched out into new fashion designs and colours which have won a world-wide reputation.

In Kuwait, the Filipino business circle recently got its newest fashion member: SM Fashion Wear. The shop is owned and managed by Steve Tamayo and has a wide variety of men and ladies clothes, shoes and bags.

SM Fashion Wear is located at Souk Al Kuwait at the basement of Al Ghali building, Fahd Al Salem Street, Kuwait City.

(Right): Mme. Narombei Tamano, the wife of the Philippine Ambassador Dr. Maurya Tamano, cutting the ribbon to open the shop as Father Angelo looks on.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony for SM Fashion Wear.



Farewell function

A farewell reception was recently held for Ganduri Krishna of Gull Cables Company who will be leaving Kuwait soon. Krishna made a touching farewell speech. The luncheon was presided by K.P. Poulouse and addressed by K.V. Mohandas, Khandaker Khorsheedul Alam and Kazi Jainul.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Cartoon serial
- 9.40 Iftab Ya Simsim
- 10.10 Good Morning
- 10.30 Al Bakheel Wa Ana: Arabic serial
- 11.15 Sabah Al Khair
- 12.00 Al Ma'sara: Arabic serial, starring Jamil Awad, Juliet Awad, Dawood Jalalaj...
- 1.00 Songs
- 1.30 Al Sanafer: cartoon serial
- 2.00 The News
- 2.30 Ibn Aqel: Gulf serial. Starring: Ablam Mohammed, Ibrahim Al Bunk
- 3.45 Alf Leylan Wa Leylah
- 4.00 Fexfire: English feature film
- 5.30 Adventures: cartoon serial
- 6.00 Songs and Music
- 6.30 Kaan Ya Ma Kaan: Children's serial
- 7.30 Khidmat Al Jamoor: documentary presented by Yacoub Al Youssef
- 8.00 Diwanat Sbuara Al Nab
- 9.45 Al Zaera: daily Arabic serial, starring Samiya Ayoub, Salah Qabil, Shireen, Ablab Kamel.
- 10.45 Songs
- 11.00 Makhloot Ismaha Al Mar'aa (A Creation Named Woman). "Al Talebah." Starring: Farouk Fishawi, Shihira, Tahiya Karoka.
- 12.25 News Summary
- 12.30 World News via Satellite
- 12.45 Holy Quran/Closedown



Queenie, KTV 2: 10.30

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Macron 1: cartoon series
- 6.30 The Beachcombers: "Not Just Another Pretty..." When John fails to arrest the cyclist, he is advised to dress up in the same manner. Adventure.
- 7.00 The Natural World: "The Living Jewel of Kalahari." A closer look at the Okavango desert and how its inhabitants fight for survival. Cultural.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Made in Kuwait: A

local programme about the industrial development in Kuwait.

- 9.00 E.N.G.: "The Chilling Effect." An old friend of Ann's informs her about a secret project involving biological weapons. Adventure.
- 10.00 Lenny Henry Show: A comedy of short scenes with songs and dances.
- 10.30 Bestseller: "Queenie." Part 11. Queenie returns to India to act in a film. She is then under the danger of being arrested.
- 12.00 News in brief
- 12.10 Magazine D'actualite: Closedown

WHAT'S ON

Social

Summer Bazaar

Aug. 3: The Ladies Friendship Association's Big Summer Bazaar will be held in the Exhibition Hall at Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel from 9 am to 9 pm. Gift items, home products, handicrafts, toys, clothes and much more. Raffle with attractive prizes. Surprise for children. All are welcome. For details call Manal 574-9179.

Approb 'Who's Who' directory

THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is planning to publish a "Who's Who" directory of prominent Pakistani professionals and businessmen resident in Kuwait by January 1991. The directory aims at providing information about all Pakistanis proficient and distinguished in their professions and businesses.

Data forms are available free of cost from Approb executive board members and other locations. For further details contact Approb on Tel. No. 2425315, Fax 5323751, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, 22024 Salmiya, Kuwait.

A copy of the directory will be given free of charge to all individuals whose names will appear in the directory.

LIL

July 30: 10 am to 12 noon. LIL will hold a newcomer's coffee morning on Monday at the Sheraton Hotel, Mezzanine floor. Ladies new to LIL or Kuwait are welcome. For details contact Janet 2434941.

Summerbelle '90

Aug 2: United Goans Centre will hold Summerbelle '90 at the SAS Hotel's The Tent. Top Ranks and Hurricane Alley in attendance. For reservations call Tony, 2612024; Cyril, 2523920; Joe, 5655140.

Filipino expats survey

The office of the welfare officer of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is launching an initial information campaign to conduct a survey of Filipino workers in Kuwait.

This will cover statistical data on the number of Filipino workers employed in the private companies and government institutions. It will also include such information as job classifications, tenure of con-

tracts, duration of residence and other information about the workers.

The Filipino Workers Social Centre (FWSC) at the Philippine embassy is also inviting volunteers for its various social and welfare projects designed to minimise the mounting problems of overseas contract workers — thereby ensuring the general welfare of Filipinos.

The official survey form can be obtained from welfare officer, Alejandro Samia Santos at the following tel. Nos. 5329315, 5329316, 5329317, 5329318 & 5329319.

Theatre

Isang Rock Opera: *Kailangang-Kailangan ka namin maria* (Attention Filipino ladies): The female lead role in the musical drama Maria Makiling-Isang Rock Opera. Aspirants must have a pleasing personality and must have a talent for singing, dancing and acting. For details contact Mabuhay Restaurant from 6 pm to 9 pm and ask for Rod Manalo, Lito Matiga, Maria or Florence. Tel: 2436121.

At Holiday Inn Crown Plaza

Coffee Shop: open for early morning breakfast; also serves lunch and dinner.

Lobby Cafe: offers refreshments and snacks.

Babylon Gardens: features fresh fruit juices and refreshments.

At the Sheraton: Hunt Room: Daily buffet lunch in addition to a la carte; plus grills specialties; a la carte dinner plus some specialties from Le Tarbouche; Duo Fantasy in attendance.

Ricardo Restaurant: will be open for dinner 8pm to 11pm with live entertainment by Regina and Frances.

Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6am to 10.00am.

At the Messiah Beach: Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

Al Berdowne: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At the Plaza: Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.

Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.

Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

Al Salam Hotel: Al Bender Coffee Shop: international cuisine, breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet and a la carte (6 am to midnight).

Al Mawardi Garden Cafe: Snacks, pastries and beverages (6 pm to midnight).

Al Gondoul Grill Garden: All grills specialties, a la carte, (6 pm to midnight).

Al Merse: On board, international a la carte cuisine lunch and dinner, closed on Fridays.

Friday Brunch: Ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon characters to amuse.

At the SAS: Bistrotto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music.

Pescocook Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.

Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.

Clock snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the International: Fallaka: situated on the 19th floor, overlooking the coastline, it offers international cuisine; live entertainment in the evenings. Closed on Fridays.

La Palma: offers buffet as well as a la carte. Family style brunch on Fridays.

Kel: offers Japanese dining in an oriental atmosphere.

La Patisserie: selection of snacks; pianist in the evenings.

Al Wah: ice cream promotion featuring different flavours, until August 1990.

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andulus: Taht Al Sifr (Arabic) Starring: Najla Fathi and Salah El Saadani
- Al Salmiya: Jazzerat Al Shitaan (Arabic) Starring: Adel Imam
- Al Hamra: Halawat Al Roub (Arabic) Starring: Kamal Al Shinnawi and Safia Al Imar
- Drive-in: Jazzerat Al Shitaan (Arabic) Starring: Adel Imam
- Al Firdous: Sikka (Hindi) Starring: Dimple Kapadia

- Fahaheel Open: Begaana
- Fahaheel: Golden Terminal
- Al Jahra: Thodisi Bewefai
- Granada: Hall booked
- Sulabikhat: Al Raqqasaa Wa Al Siyaasi
- Jeeb: Vadakunoki Yanthram
- Ahmedi Drive-in: Mag Wheels

PRAYERS

- Fajr: 3:37 am
- Zuhr: 11:45
- Az: 3:30 pm
- Maghreb: 6:42
- Isha: 8:09

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

BUSINESS & FINANCE



Opec ministers pose together July 27. From left are: Jibril Aminu of Nigeria; Al Chalabi of Iraq; Abdul Aziz Bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar; Aqazadeh of Iran; Nazer of Saudi Arabia and Ginanjir Kartasamila of Indonesia.



Opec president Sadok Boussena (left) and Subroto face reporters at the end of the Opec conference July 27. (Reuters wirephoto)



Boussena (left) huddles with Al Otaiba of the UAE (second from left), Al Chalabi and Subroto. (Reuters wirephoto)

UAE expects higher oil quotas

'Present share falls short of what the nation deserves'

ABU DHABI, July 28, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates (UAE), castigated by Iraq and other Opec hawks for glutting the oil market, has welcomed the group's accord but says it still deserves a higher output quota.

It accepted a 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) quota as part of a pact to raise the largest price to \$21 per barrel from 18 and total output to 22.491 million from 22.086.

"The new quota does not respond to the UAE's ambitions regarding oil potentials and untapped energy," Oil Minister Mansour Al Otaiba told Abu Dhabi television in Geneva yesterday.

"But it came in circumstances when each member had to sacrifice to reach a price of \$21," Otaiba put his country's crude reserves at 116 billion barrels. He said he expected the UAE and other Arab countries to have higher quotas in the future.

"The near-future carries positive aspects which will allow the UAE and other Arab producers with large reserves to increase their quotas," he told the television.

Otaiba did not elaborate but was apparently referring to an expected surge in world demand over the next decade.

Redundancy hitting financial markets

Paris brokers nervous

PARIS, July 28, (Reuters): Big layoffs have hit finance houses in London and New York in recent years and now many industry experts fear Paris may be next.

"The spectre of redundancy is starting to haunt the Paris financial markets," said one broker.

The high cost of introducing new technology and falling revenue after the abolition of fixed commissions last year have helped to make France's money men nervous.

Industry analysts believe the 5,900 staff currently employed by Paris's 44 brokerage houses could be cut by between 20 and 40 per cent by the end of the year. They estimate that no more than half a dozen brokers are turning a profit.

After stockbrokers Tuffier-Ravet-Py filed for bankruptcy in mid-July, Paris was on tenterhooks.

Brokers Meunier-De La Fourniere et Cie, one of Paris's biggest bond traders, drew attention to itself on July 26 when top executive Nicolas Meunier said

Opec enters new era

Oil price raised after 10 years

GENEVA, July 28, (Reuters): Opec is back in the business of raising oil prices. For the first time in 10 years yesterday the 13-nation cartel raised its official price to \$21 per barrel (\$21, more than \$3 a barrel higher than the price set in 1980).

New output quotas were mandated to check excess supply and take up to 800,000 barrels daily off the market, erase the latest glut and drive spot market prices up to the new goal.

Delegates said Opec acted under pressure from Iraq, — until lately the most eloquent advocate of a user-friendly Opec policy of generous supply at low prices.

"We have the conviction we are entering a new era where we improve the price progressively," said Sadok Boussena of Algeria, president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

In Tehran, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said the price should be moved up to \$30.

He said the Soviet Union, the biggest oil producer although not a member of Opec, should help throttle supply so prices soar.

"Let the Soviets co-operate with a few Opec countries. We are ready. So are the Iraqis, Libyans and Algerians..."

Rafsanjani said that if these exporters — Opec pricing "hawks" in the 1970s — stopped selling for a month, the world would have to pay up or shut down.

Traditional moderates led by Venezuela resisted an Iraqi bid at the Opec conference, which ended on Friday, to target a minimum reference price as high as \$25.

They worried that the United States and other consumers might adopt energy-saving policies if Opec revived its old image as a greedy cartel at the mercy of Middle East politics.

"There is no need for fear in the Western world that we will drive prices too high," Opec secretary-general Subroto of Indonesia told reporters.

Saudi Arabian oil minister Hisham Nazer said Opec did not want prices so high as to "shift demand to alternative energy."

He said the Opec deal arose from "a very bad situation," apparently a reference to how weak prices hurt the economies of many poorer, debt-ridden Third World oil sellers.

Prices include Iraq's share of the 1980-88 Gulf War against fellow Opec founder member Iran. (Opec was founded 30 years ago on Sept 14 in Baghdad).

Chalabi said he was "very happy" with the increase to \$21 a barrel and with a deal that provides for stricter, regular ministerial policing of quota compliance.

Among the Gulf states, the United Arab Emirates, which had simply produced what it pleased, is returned to a quota.

Both Kuwait and the UAE pledged quotas of 1.5 million barrels daily.

"Raising the Opec price to \$21 is a major development. They seem to have become more aggressive about their price ideas," said Michael Rothman, a vice-president at the international banking and finance company, Merrill Lynch.

Opec quadrupled oil prices in 1973 when an Arab oil embargo against the West created shortages. Oil company panic-buying led by the Japanese, frightened by the Iranian revolution, created a second oil price shock in 1980.

Cartel ministers in December of that year fixed a "deemed marker" or top benchmark at \$36 per barrel.

The sky-high prices forced the West to find alternative energy sources and caused the first of a series of gluts.

Demand is now rebounding to peaks of a decade ago. More than half the oil burned in the United States is imported.

Oman said last May its proven oil reserves had more than doubled to 4.3 billion barrels from two billion in 1979.

The sultanate is a de-facto leader of the seven-member Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries (Ipec) group, also known as non-Opec, which includes Mexico, Angola, the Soviet Union, Malaysia, China and Egypt.

The group agreed to cut exports by five per cent in the second quarter of 1989.

If all 13 Opec members stick to quotas, yesterday's agreement is expected to mop up around 800,000 bpd and push oil prices, now around \$17 per barrel, to the target by year-end.

The UAE rejected its allocation of 1.095 million bpd under last November's Opec pact as too little.

Abu Dhabi's semi-official Al Itihad newspaper today backed Otaiba's view that the new 1.5 million bpd quota "falls short of what the UAE deserves." But it said the agreement would strengthen the organisation.

In Geneva, Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Al Chalabi yesterday described as "historic" Opec's agreement today on increasing its benchmark price to \$21 per barrel, setting its production ceiling at 22.491 million barrels per day and fixing quotas.

Al Chalabi was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency as saying that the Opec agreement "has restored Opec's unity and guaranteed the legitimate and just rights for all member states in the organisation."

Opec Secretary-General Subroto said Western countries need not fear that the group would drive oil prices too high.

"I must say that there is no need to be afraid in Western countries that we will drive oil prices too high," the former Indonesian oil minister told Nigerian journalists.

He was asked if an Opec agreement in Geneva today to raise the group's minimum reference price from \$18 to \$21 did not indicate it was poised to again raise prices as it did in the mid-1970s.

"Although we are in position to get higher market share we will not misuse the opportunity by pushing prices too high because it won't benefit anyone," Subroto said.

Subroto added that \$21 was not too high. "Right now in nominal terms prices should be \$22.70," he said.

Some key Opec ministers including Saudi Arabia's Hisham Nazer have said they expect oil prices to reach \$21 by year-end.

Subroto said that between now and December he would tour consumer nations to assure them Opec's aim was not just to achieve higher oil revenue but also market stability.

Oil markets suffered an emotional letdown after the Opec group actually signed a new production-limiting agreement yesterday that drove prices down as traders took profits on increases leading up to the accord.

The benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for September delivery fell 26 cents on the day to \$20.04 a barrel in trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the world's largest oil exchange.

Sun Co., Radnor, Pa. and Marathon Oil Co., the Findlay, Ohio, unit of USX Corp., also dropped the posted price they will pay for crude at the wellhead by 50 cents a barrel to \$18.75 a barrel for WTI.

Oman expects oil prices to improve

NICOSIA, July 28, (Reuters): World oil prices are expected to improve and stabilise following Opec's latest Geneva accord, Omani Petroleum and Minerals Minister Said Bin Ahmed Al Shanfari said today.

Urging other non-Opec producers to co-operate with the organisation, Shanfari said: "This accord will help gradually get rid of the oil glut in the world."

"Thus, world oil prices, are expected to improve and stabilise," the Omani news agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Shanfari as saying.

He said the agreement reached yesterday raising the target price to \$21 per barrel from 18 and total output to 22.491 million barrels from 22.086, "serves the interests of producers and consumers alike."

"The Omani government reaffirms its continued support for all efforts to stabilise the oil markets and urges non-Opec producers to co-operate with the organisation in the interest of producers and consumers," he added.

A senior Omani oil official said earlier this month Oman had shelved plans to raise oil output by 50,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 700,000 to support Opec's efforts to boost prices.

Business briefs

Ferruzzi restructuring: Italy's Gruppo Ferruzzi on Friday announced plans to merge its chemicals firm Montedison Spa with its agribusiness holding in a major corporate restructuring.

The group headed by industrialist Raul Gardini said Montedison will merge with Ferruzzi Agricola Finanziaria Spa, the holding company which oversees the group's agribusiness sector. The merger will be done through a share exchange.

"The objective of the merger operation is to create a big industrial holding with turnover of 35 trillion lire (\$30 billion), a redesigned global company to confront the challenges of the 1990s," Gardini told a news conference.

The newly merged company, which will retain the name of Montedison, will oversee such subsidiaries as sugar groups Eridania Spa of Italy and Beghin-Say of France.

"The combination within the same group of the activities of a large chemicals company, such as Montedison, and those of a large agribusiness group such as Eridania/Beghin-Say, will provide the opportunity to implement a very innovative industrial plan," Ferruzzi said in a statement. (Reuters)

UK economy in decline: The £408 million (\$738.5 million) pre-tax profit announced by Lloyds Bank for the first half of 1990 was below expectations and showed the British economy is in decline, experts said Friday.

Analysts said they expected similar disappointments from the other major clearing banks, which are scheduled to release results next week.

They said the markets had been expecting Lloyds to declare about £460 million (\$832.6 million) and attributed the lower figure — caused by falling levels of borrowing and increased defaults on loans — on Britain's 15 per cent interest rates.

"The figures show a decline for the economy in that they show a high degree of default in corporate borrowing," said Chris Ellerton, banking analyst for Warburg Securities. (UPI)

SBI joint venture: S.B. International Limited (SBIL) was formally inaugurated on July 6, 1990 by Mr S. Lutchmeemuraidoo, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Mauritius.

SBIL is an offshore bank incorporated jointly by SBI, State Commercial Bank Limited (SCB), Mauritius, and State Investment Corporation of Mauritius.

SBIL is expected to benefit from the strength and international banking expertise of SBI and the position occupied by the SCB in the Mauritian economy. Being an offshore bank SBIL will engage itself in important financial activities such as trade finance, forex and money market operations, foreign currency loans etc.

Kuwaiti market inactive: The Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market was quiet on Saturday, as European banks were closed for their two-day weekend, dealers said.

Little business was seen in either short dates or fixed dates, and rates were largely unchanged, they added.

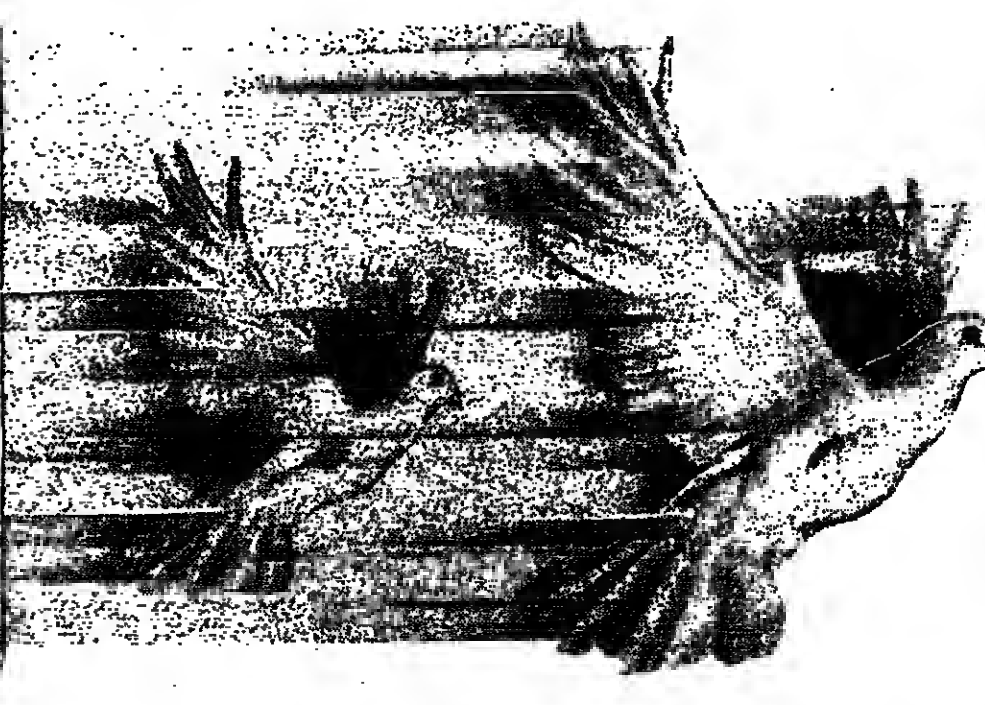
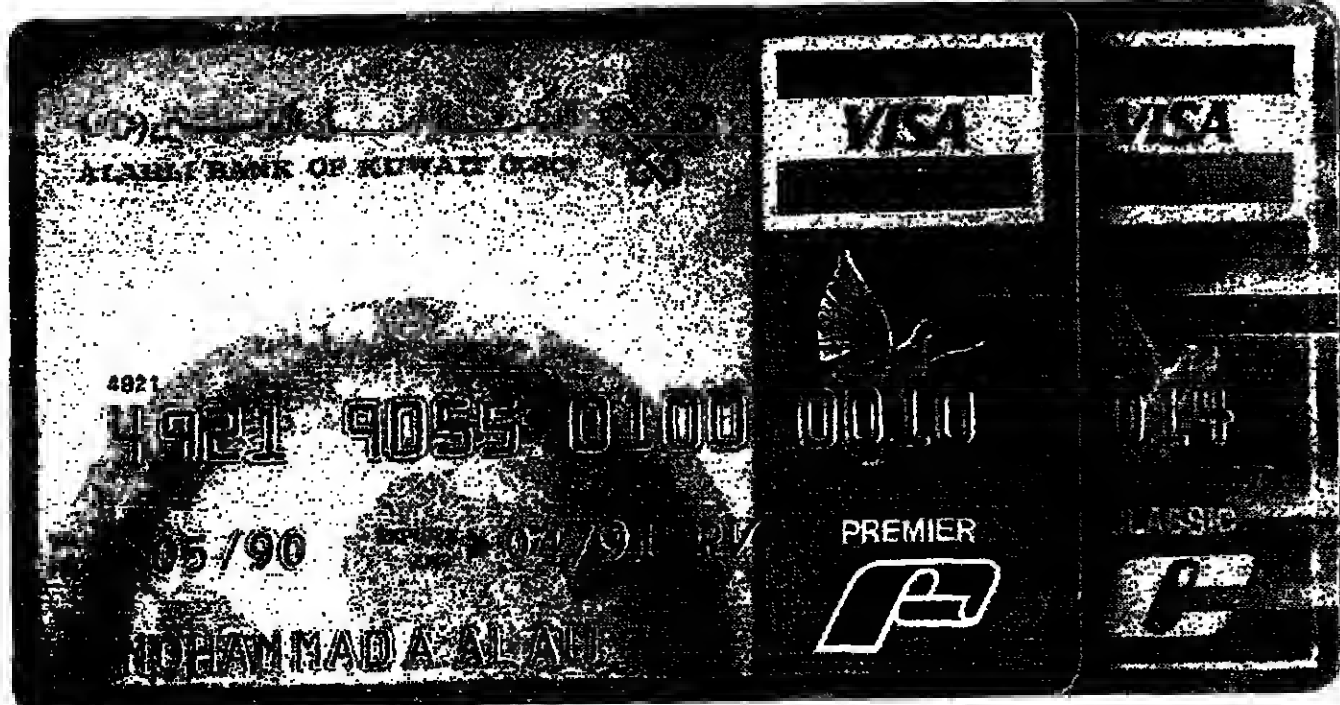
The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.2886777 to the dollar. (Reuters)

Saudi market quiet: Little activity was seen on a quiet, featureless Saudi rial interbank deposit market, as European banks closed for the Saturday/Sunday weekend, dealers said.

Some banks were reporting no business at all, and rates were basically unchanged, they said. One month was quoted at 7-11/16 7-9/16 per cent, three months 7-13/16 7-11/16, six months at 7-7/8 7-3/4, and one year at 7-15/16 7-13/16.

The spot rial was being quoted at 3.7503 to the dollar. (Reuters)

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BUSINESS

Week in Business

US economy 'gasping for air', moving close to a recession

NEW YORK, July 28, (UPI): A week only bond investors could have ended yesterday with the government's announcement that US economic growth was a mere 1.2 per cent in the second quarter, down from 1.7 per cent in the first quarter. It was the most persuasive evidence to date that the United States is moving dangerously close to a recession, which is defined by economic textbooks as the straight quarters of economic contraction.

The American economy is "gasping for air," commented Chicago economist Robert Dederick of Northern Trust Bank. That view seems increasingly held by analysts who had hoped recession might be skirted by a wider margin.

On Wednesday the government said durable

goods orders dropped 3.2 per cent in June after rising 4.2 per cent in May. That indicated the key manufacturing sector, despite a few bright spots, remains in the doldrums.

Only the bond market could be happy at week's end. Treasury bonds appreciated in value in times of economic distress, so news that the country had moved closer to recession pushed up prices. But the dollar, already on a slide, was hammered by the German mark and other units.

To some extent, the economy remained a hostage of bipartisan budget talks in Washington. The Bush administration and the democratically controlled Congress were sitting down together to try to trim

\$50 billion from the federal budget deficit for the fiscal year starting Oct 1.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has indicated that a substantial cut in the deficit could be rewarded by reduced short-term rates, which the administration has been demanding as a tonic for the economy.

The GNP announcement was a fitting end for a week that began on the New York Stock Exchange with a 105-point intraday plunge by the Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks. The Dow recovered to end trading 56.44 points down to stand at 2904.70.

A few days before, stock market players had tried to shove the closing Dow over the psychological

significant 3,000 barrier. But Monday's market break suggested that the rally was artificial, based on a few supercharged stocks and possibly the market's way of dispelling the growing economic gloom.

The market tried to bounce back from the slide, triggered by disappointing corporate earnings, but fell off again to end the week just below the 2900 mark, at 2893.51.

The brief midweek recovery was led by oil company shares surging on tensions between Gulf states Iraq and Kuwait, against the backdrop of a summit of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Opec ministers agreed in Geneva to

increase their collective production ceiling — but adhere to it — and raise the oil group's target price by \$3 to \$21 a barrel.

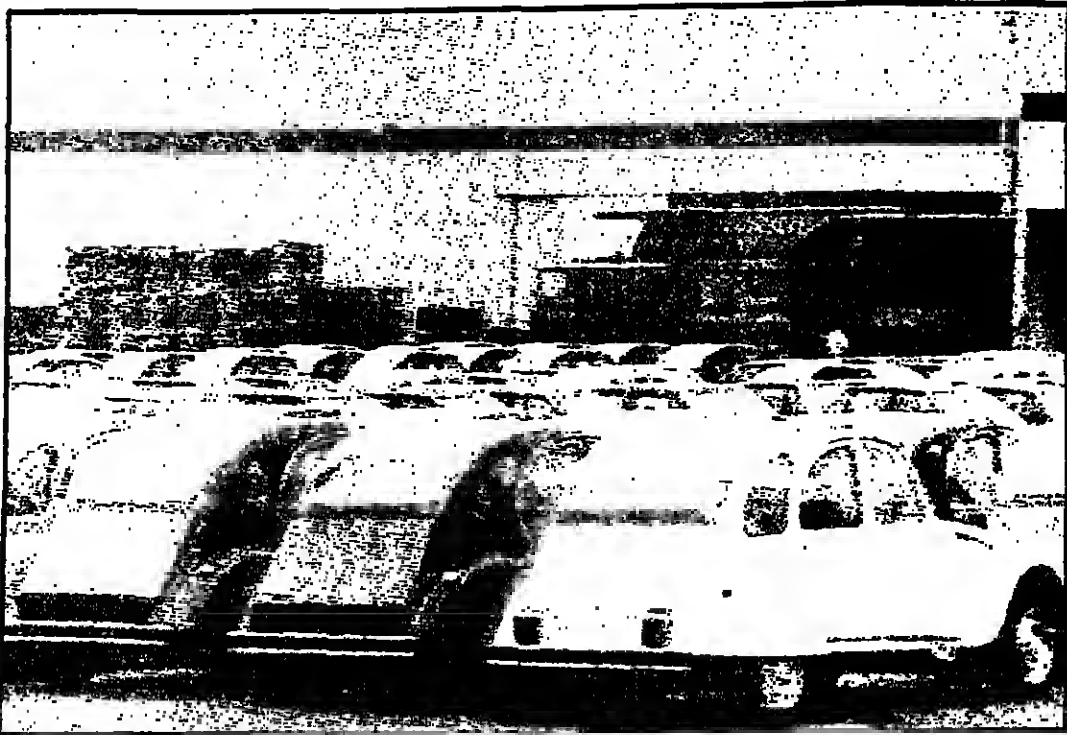
More poor corporate earnings were reported. General Motors Corp and Ford Motor Co said their quarterly profits were off, respectively, by 38 per cent and 45 per cent. GM blamed its depressed earnings on heavy discounting of autos in its core North American market, as well as by the disruption of Brazilian operation by that country's economic turmoil.

Ford profits were hit by an overseas earnings decline of 78 per cent coming on top of a North American falloff of 22 per cent. Ford executives cited big labour problems in Europe — its Belgian

operation was struck — and the impact of the new Brazilian government's crash economic austerity plan.

Digital Equipment Corp, the second-largest US computer company, also had problems. It posted its first loss in 32 years of operation after taking \$400 million charges to cover employee severance costs. Digital posted a loss of \$256.7 million in the June quarter, against profits of \$313.2 million in same period a year earlier.

There was red ink as well as debt-loaded food and tobacco giant RJR Nabisco, which lost \$108 million in the quarter. But the company had higher operating profits and cash flow, so analysts expected better results ahead.



Some of the last 2CVs parked in the lot of a French autodealer July 27. (Reuter wirephoto)

Adieu to Citroen

Last car rolls out in Portugal

LISBON, Portugal, July 28, (AP): It was a quiet adieu to an automotive legend yesterday when the last Citroen Deux Chevaux — France's funny-looking four-wheeled friend to millions — rolled off the factory line in Portugal after 42 years in production.

There were no public ceremonies yesterday afternoon at the Manguale factory 370 kms (230 miles) northeast of Lisbon, where production was moved two years ago after Citroen closed its Levallois assembly line near Paris.

"Just a little get-together for the workers who have been making them," said Citroen Lusitania spokesman Teixeira de Abreu in a telephone interview.

But Citroen fans world-wide will mourn the demise of the turtle-shaped Deux Chevaux — named literally for the "Two Horses," or old-time horsepower produced by its chugging air-cooled engine.

Officially designated the 2CV, the car with open-flap side-windows, mattress-like suspension and scrawny tires, has sold over 3.86 million since its launch at the 1948 Paris auto show for the princely sum of 22,800 francs (about \$650 at the time).

Including a van, more comfortable Ami and Dyane versions, and even a four-wheel drive derivative, more than 7 million Deux Chevaux have hit the roads and thousands of fans have set up about 300 owners clubs worldwide.

The car has starred in James Bond films and has been flown hanging from a hot air balloon. It has set world altitude and depth records for a car — climb-

ing to 17,180 feet (5,239 metres) on Bolivia's mount Chacaltaya in 1953 and going down a salt mine in France's Lorraine region.

Two Frenchmen, Jacques Seguela and Jean-Claude Baudot made an 87,000-mile (140,000-kms) round the world trip in a 2CV, once resorting to crushed bananas to lubricate a broken gearbox while crossing a South American desert.

Citroen's hi-tech AX Compact will substitute the 2CV at the Manguale plant. But, according to Gavin Green, chief editor of Britain's car magazine, "No car will replace it — there's no successor in sight. It's the end of an era."

He says most owners have an emotional relationship with their 2CV that, like the Volkswagen Beetle and the Mini, has become a motoring legend.

"It's different but sensible," said two-time Deux Chevaux owner Green, "and for an old car it's still quite advanced — it has direct ignition, independent suspension and inboard brakes ... things that some sports car makers are still making a song and dance about."

In 1935, Citroen boss Pierre-Jules Boulanger asked his designers to dream up a small, avant-garde car for all classes or folk that would be like "a four-wheeled sofa covered by an umbrella."

It should have enough headroom for an opera-going gent wearing a top hat, but also be capable enough to transport a two-peasant with a basket of eggs across a ploughed field without smashing the fragile cargo. All that without using more than three litres (0.78 gallon) of fuel for 100 kms (60 miles).

Reebok chief to get pay cut

STOUGHTON, Massachusetts, July 28, (AP): The man who amassed great wealth by overseeing Reebok's rapid growth from a small shoe company into a trend-setting athletic apparel giant will take a pay cut of more than \$1 million next year.

But Paul Fireman still will be able to afford expensive footwear like Reebok's \$170 sneaker, "The Pump." His new deal with the company could pay him \$2 million a year in salary and bonuses.

The company announced Thursday that a new five-year deal would pay Fireman, its 46-year-old chairman and chief executive officer, \$1 million a year in salary and the potential for another \$1 million in annual bonuses based on the company's profits.

His current agreement, which expires Dec 31, brought Fireman an average of about \$13.6 million annually for the past four years. More than 95 per cent of that was in bonuses based on the company's pre-tax earnings, the rest in salary.

Chrysler-Fiat deal in the offing: report

LOS ANGELES, July 28, (UPI): The long-rumored agreement between automakers Chrysler Corp and Italian carmaker Fiat SpA may be officially announced as soon as next week, the Financial News Network reported yesterday.

FNN, quoting sources inside Chrysler and from Fiat's home base in Turin, Italy, said the companies would like to have a deal announced next week — perhaps timed to coincide with Chrysler's scheduled announcement of what are expected to be weak second-quarter earnings on Tuesday.

FNN said, however, that a ranking Chrysler executive has denied that a deal could be completed so soon. The network added that any agreement between the companies could take months to complete.

FNN noted that the key questions surrounding any Chrysler-Fiat deal concern how broad a working relationship the two companies

would have. It said while it is possible that Fiat could eventually take an equity position in Chrysler, a joint marketing venture is more likely at first.

Under a joint marketing agreement, the report said, Fiat could agree to distribute Chrysler's popular mini-vans and jeeps in Europe. Chrysler may also desire that Fiat contribute to the development of a new subcompact jeep, code named "JL," although the No 3 US carmaker has indicated it would go it alone if necessary.

The FNN report pointed out that Chrysler and Fiat have been intermittently talking about a deal for the last four years, and cautioned that while a deal between the companies seems imminent, it could always fall through at the last minute.

Chrysler Motors president Robert Lutz confirmed last week Chrysler is actively talking about a wide variety of ventures with Fiat.

Call to debar Northrop Corp

WASHINGTON, July 28, (AP): The US Justice Department is recommending that the Northrop Corp, a giant military contractor that has pleaded guilty to fraud charges, be barred from building weapons for the nation's military.

In a series of memorandums from March to June of this year, the department sharply criticised Northrop — the maker of the B-2 bomber and parts for the MX nuclear missile — for failing to conduct critical tests on nuclear weapons systems.

"If any case cries out for debarment, this is the case," said a March 13 memo from the US attorney's office in Los Angeles to O. Kevin Vincent in the air force's General Counsel Office at the Pentagon.

ALSHALL index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday July 25, 1990 an average of 38.91 points with a decrease of 0.84 point — 2.11 per cent — from last week's average of Wednesday July 18, 1990. Alshall index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 51.71 points with a decrease of 1.73 points — 3.24 per cent — for the same period.

The trading volume (four days of trading only) for Kuwaiti shares reached 26.90 million shares at a daily average of 6.73 million shares with an increase of 97 per cent over previous week's daily average of 3.42 million shares. Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 5.651 million shares at a daily average of 1.413 million shares with an increase of 95 per cent over previous week's daily average of 0.725 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD15.64 million at a daily average of KD3.91 million, an increase of 223 per cent over last week's daily average of KD1.21 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.368 million at a daily average of KD0.067 million, an increase of 81 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.037 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 80 per cent of total trading against 46 per cent last week. National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 48 per cent, followed by Kuwait Finance Bank at 22 per cent and the Gulf Bank at 15 per cent. The services sector came second at 8 per cent in which Mobile Telephone Systems Company had the lead at 87 per cent, followed by the Public Warehousing Company at 13 per cent. The investment sector came third at 7 per cent in which Coast Investment & Development Company had the lead at 62 per cent, followed by National Investments Company at 26 per cent and International Financial Advisers Company (IFA) at 7 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank had the lead at 69 per cent, followed by Umm Al Qaiwain Cement Industries Company at 18 per cent and Arabian General Investment Company (Shua'a) at 10 per cent.

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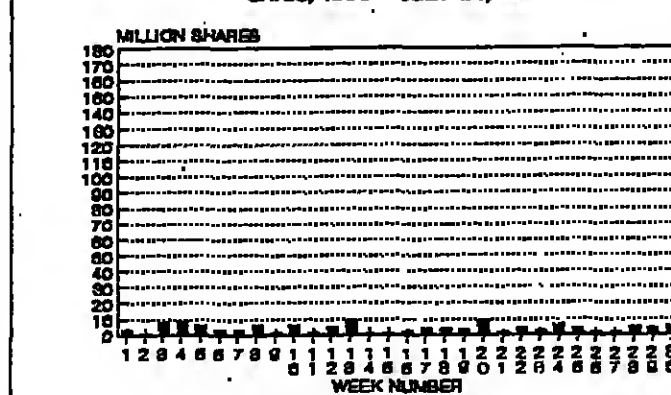
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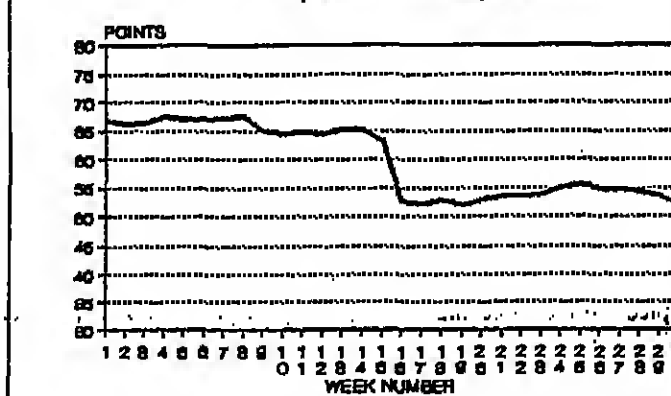
Trading in shares increase

Value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD15.64 million

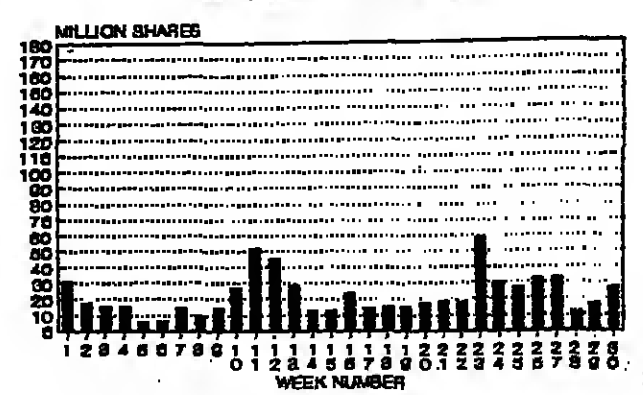
NON-KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES WEEKLY TRADING VOLUME FROM JAN 3, 1990 - JULY 25, 1990



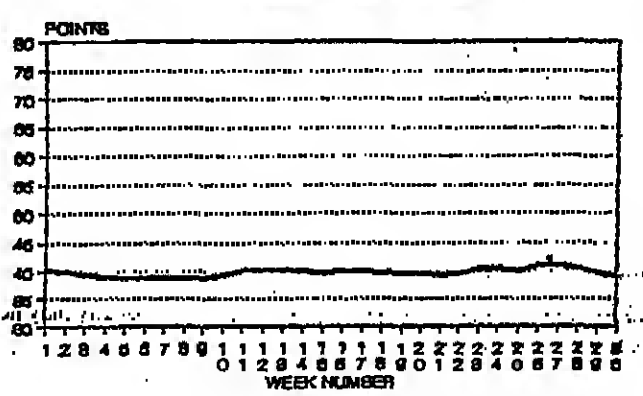
ALSHALL PRICE INDEX NON-KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES FROM JAN 3, 1990 - JULY 25, 1990



KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES WEEKLY TRADING VOLUME FROM JAN 3, 1990 - JULY 25, 1990



ALSHALL PRICE INDEX KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES FROM JAN 3, 1990 - JULY 25, 1990



Alshall Kuwait shareholding

	Wed. 25/07/90	Wed. 18/07/90	Change points
Banking Sector			
The National Bk	130.52	133.16	-2.64
The Gulf Bk	28.46	28.94	-0.47
The Comm. Bk	22.50	23.05	-0.55
Al Ahli Bk	29.66	30.19	-0.53
Bk of Kt & ME	29.12	29.62	-0.50
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	27.97	27.51	0.46
Burgan Bk	25.13	26.00	-0.87
Kt Finance House	81.72	84.42	-2.69
Sector Index	48.54	49.51	-0.97
Inv. Sector			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	11.02	13.22	-2.20
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	—
IFA	27.28	30.37	-3.09
Comm. Facilities	157.30	154.28	3.03
National Inv.	52.94	57.84	-4.90
Kt. Inv. Proj.	82.02	82.02	—
Coast Inv. & Dev.	84.71	87.06	-2.35
Sector Index	32.26	33.71	-1.45
Ins. Sector			
Kt. Ins. Co.	35.88	35.88	—
Gulf Ins. Co.	22.31	22.31	—
Al Ahleia Ins.	50.71	50.71	—
Warba Ins. Co.	48.20	48.20	—
Sector Index	35.38	35.38	—
Real Est. Sec.			
Kt. Real Est.	12.49	12.49	—
Utd. Realty	4.91	5.22	-0.31
Nat. Real Est.	22.69	22.69	—
Pearl of Kt.	61.90	61.90	—
Sector Index	12.77	12.84	-0.16
Ind. Sector			
Kt. Cmt. Co.	13.36	14.86	-1.50

	Wed. 25/07/90	Wed. 18/07/90	Change points
Ref. Ind.	81.26	81.26	—
Gulf Cables	113.13	115.39	-2.26
Kt. Pharm.	57.78	61.33	-3.56
Sector Index	31.01	32.59	-1.59
Services Sector			
Kt. Cmpt. Co.	142.56	142.56	—
Kt. Cinema Co.	10.46	10.46	—
Pub. Whousg Co.	51.52	53.54	-2.02
Kt. Comm. M. Co.	34.99	34.99	—
M. Tele. Syst.	360.00	370.00	-10.00
Sector Index	59.58	61.03	-1.44
Food Sector			
L. Trad. & Transp.	24.41	24.00	0.41
Utd Fisheries	12.47	13.03	-0.57
Kt. Utd Poultry	110.01	110.01	—
Kt. Food Co.	68.97	70.11	-1.15
Sector Index	37.37	37.61	-0.24
Overall Index	38.91	39.74	-0.84

Alshall Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

	Wed. 25/07/90	Wed. 18/07/90	Change points
First Gulf Bank	263.16	263.16	—
Bah. Intl. Bk.	75.86	80.00	-4.14
Bah. M.E. Bk.	81.63	85.42	-3.80
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua'a)	41.67	42.42	-0.76
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	18.00	18.37	-0.37
Sharjah Cement	23.01	23.01	—
G. Med. Proj.	14.65	14.65	—
Total Index	51.71	53.44	-1.73

—Base period 31/12/1983.

—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Weekly Wall Street

Today's pains hold out promise of future gains

NEW YORK, July 28, (AP): With all the problems posed by a squeeze on credit, some Wall Street analysts still believe the US economy can withstand the pressure without much widespread, long-term damage.

Indeed, they contend, the pain occurring now for the banking business and its customers holds out the promise of future gains in stability and the potential for growth.

If lenders cut back, many worry that a credit shortfall might stop the economy in its tracks, says Maureen Allyn, chief economist at the New York investment management firm of Scudder, Stevens and Clark Inc.

"We think the pluses will continue to outweigh the minuses, and the economy will avoid recession," she says.

For many an armchair economist, the sight of the clampdown on lending immediately evokes

visions of a looming slump for workers consumers and businesses.

In the 1980, the reasoning goes, business and financial activity was pumped up by a rapid expansion in the use of borrowed money. Now that restricted diet of credit has been prescribed, belt tightening would seem to be the order of the day.

That certainly has been the case for the depressed home-building and real estate markets in many areas of the country.

But on an overall basis, Ms Allyn maintains, a slowdown in credit does not by itself guarantee an exactly parallel pattern in economic growth.

"Some parts of the economy use more credit than others," she points out. "Real estate, for example, is voracious."

"During the last half of the 1980s, mortgages devoured over 40 per cent of all new loans. Yet home and office building produced only about 6 per

cent of the Gross National Product.

"On the other side of the ledger, exporting — 14 per cent of GNP — uses only a smidgen of borrowing now and then to finance inventories or procure a letter of credit.

"The rising parts of the economy depend less on credit than the slowing parts."

Government statistics made public on Friday showed growth in output struggling along at a 1.2 per cent annual rate, after adjustment for inflation, in the second quarter of the year.

That gave investors scant encouragement about the prospects for improvement in corporate earnings, which lately have provoked more than a few problems in the stock market.

Alfred Godman, market strategist with A.G. Edwards and Sons Inc. in St. Louis, said Monday

the "market was primed and ready for a pullback" after gaining some 350 points since the first of May.

"Excesses (in prices) had built up in relations to book value and earnings," he said.

Stock prices rebounded Tuesday and Wednesday, thanks to a host of computerised buy programmes and some strength in technology issues and utilities.

Prices closed lower Thursday in around of selective futures-related selling and a sell-off in tobacco stocks after the New Jersey supreme court handed cigarette manufacturers a major defeat. The court ruled smokers or their survivors can seek damages for injury or death caused by failure to provide sufficient warning of health risks.

Prices fell again yesterday after the Commerce Department reported the nation's Gross National Product, battered by a plunge in exports, managed

only a 1.2 per cent gain in total output of goods and services in the second quarter, after a 1.7 per cent increase in the first quarter, analysts said.

Market forecasters had predicted an advance of 1.5 per cent to 1.8 per cent.

The economic news triggered a wave of futures-related selling resulting from stock-index arbitrage. The programmes, involving the sale of baskets of stocks and the purchase of index futures, were sparked when futures contracts dropped to small premiums, market watchers said.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks closed Friday at 2,898.51, down 62.63 from the week before. On Monday, the indicator plunged sharply, falling more than 100 points at one time before recovering, partly due to skepticism about economic and corporate earnings prospects.

The New York stock exchange composite dropped 4.33 to 193.32; the Nasdaq composite index for

the over-the-counter market fell 12.68 to 442.59, and the American stock exchange market value index was down 4.96 at 355.49.

Volume on the big board averaged 171.72 million shares a day, against 166.96 million the week before.

"Increasingly, it appears that the ongoing story for the 1990s will be that of shrinkage of financial empires built on excessive debt," said Vincent Agnew of the Investment Management Group at Chicago Title and Trust Co.

"So far, the negative impact of this trend has been more pronounced in some areas of the country than others. But the economy is now beginning to make some modest progress despite the fragility that appears to be transforming the banking system."

"Our guess is the worst may be over and the short-term dislocations may in fact enhance chances for a more upbeat economic story in 1991."

بازار سهام



Marcel Steiner, the owner of the smallest theatre in the world, has a box office hit every time he puts on a show.

It's the smallest show on Earth

By Amanda Rotherham

EVERY actor's dream comes true for Marcel Steiner on the nights he goes to his theatre. For he has never played to anything but a full house.

But even flamboyant Marcel has to admit that this may be something to do with the fact that there are always only two seats to fill. And often, the cast outnumbers the audience in the world's smallest theatre.

Marcel has built his playhouse onto the sidecar of his motor-cycle. It has a stage with velvet curtains, two red seats...and a pair of opera glasses.

Packed houses have watched the actors perform everything from "A Tale of Two Cities" to "The Decline and Fall of the Third Reich, Including the Second World War." Marcel's side-long, 2ft-wide theatre has wowed audiences all over the world for 20 years.

Burly Marcel is currently starring in the leading role of "The Secret Wives of Henry VIII," with his touring company. Dressed as the Merry Monarch, he told me: "I've had to cut a hole in the floor so that I can stand upright. After all, I am over six feet tall and weigh in at 14 stone (196 pounds)."

"Although my stage is only two feet square, it can handle a cast of six. Of course, one player has to leave before another comes on. And some of the actors and actresses do quick changes outside the sidecar and play several parts each."

"At first, this was all a joke. But now the theatre has been going for 20 years and has developed a life of its own."

He continued: "I never intended to keep it going. But now I've resigned myself to the fact that I'm never going to get away from it."

Marcel, a Londoner in his forties, boomed: "Only one person has ever walked out. This was because there was a camel race going on at the resort we were playing, and the man wanted to place a bet."

Marcel, who says he has based the design of his theatre on the London Palladium, believes the limited space in which he has to work presents a challenge. And sometimes it is difficult for the audience too.

He said: "There was one incident that had the cast in stitches. One of the audience was, without exaggeration, very large and about 30 stone (420 pounds). This meant that he had to be the entire audience but the man was determined to see one of our shows."

"Just to get him in, we had to take down one of the sides of the theatre. Unfortunately, his weight

plunged the auditorium to the ground and the stage up in the air."

"But we carried on, trying not to slide down on top of him. Our theatre-goers were very good-humoured about the whole thing."

The sale of only two tickets to every performance would bring the curtain down on Marcel's mini-theatre. So he is lured by entertainment centres to perform, and hands out the tickets on a "first come, first served" basis.

Almost all the plays performed by the theatre are classics. Abridged classics that never take more than half an hour from the opening scene to the final bow. For the audience can get restless in such a confined space.

Marcel admits that the most abbreviated form of any play he has attempted was that sweeping "Decline and Fall of the Third Reich, Including the Second World War." He says the battle scenes were the most memorable part of that performance.

His current play tells the story of how Henry VIII ordered the execution of many of his wives. A guillotine has been placed on the roof of the theatre, so that the heads fall back on to the stage. Indeed, they almost tumble into the laps of the audience.

"The Secret Wives of Henry VIII" has a cast of three. Two actresses play the parts of all the short-reigning Queens, not to mention the palace servants and ladies-in-waiting.

Although this is an abridged version, in the 20-minute performance costume changes have not been skimped on. There are dozens of them in the show, which are done hastily backstage, or rather, outside.

This season's performance is the first after a long break of nearly two years for the theatre was short of money. Marcel tried to forget all about his smallest show on earth.

But this didn't work. Fairy godparents in the form of Dutch funfair owners appeared and they paid Marcel to bring his theatre out of retirement and put it back on the road.

Now Marcel would like to plan a world tour. His motorbike and sidecar theatre have appeared in Amsterdam, Belgium, Ireland and even Times Square in New York.

But before planning shows in more far-flung destinations, there are festivals in London and Liverpool this summer. This will give Marcel a chance to perfect the latest performance of "The Secret Wives of Henry VIII."

But there is one well-known story, not yet performed by Marcel, which seems to be ideal for his mini-theatre... "A Sidecar Named Desire."



The smallest theatre in the world has an auditorium big enough for only two. Marcel Steiner, at over 6 feet tall, has had to cut a hole in the stage floor to fit himself in.

More hope for osteoporosis sufferers

Exploring health with Jaffrey A. Fisher, M.D.

BEFORE I began writing this column I looked back over the past three (plus) years (when I began) to see what I'd said about osteoporosis. I've written several columns on the subject, and well I should. Osteoporosis is an enormous public health problem, which causes more than 1.5 million fractures each year and costs up to \$10 billion.

Basically what I said just a few years ago was that the only viable option was to prevent osteoporosis through calcium supplementation begun by the age of 30, regular weight-bearing exercise, not smoking, and women using estrogen after the menopause unless there was a good reason for them not to take it, such as gall bladder disease or previous breast or uterine cancer.

As far as treatment went, for those who

were unlucky enough to already have osteoporosis, the prognosis was pretty bleak. The same estrogen used to help prevent osteoporosis was also being used to treat it, with some modest results, but that was about it. Everything else that might be available had to be qualified with "in the future."

Fortunately, for those with osteoporosis, the future is now, at least some of it. Estrogen is still being used, but now there is also available calcitonin, a hormone that is either injected or taken intranasally (through the nose). It is safe, helps stave off further bone loss and even increases bone density a little.

And, unless you've cancelled the subscription to your newspaper or forgotten to pay your cable bill for your television, you've probably heard the latest, and pos-

sibly the best news of all. A new drug not really new, but this is the most extensively it's been tested called etidronate has been shown to increase bone density and prevent fractures in 429 women over 60 years of age.

Etidronate works in some ways similarly to estrogen and calcitonin, that is they are both anti-resorptive agents. What does this mean? Bone is continually being remodelled, some of it being laid down and the rest being resorbed. In the person without osteoporosis, these two processes are in synch: just as much bone is laid down as is resorbed. When the resorption process exceeds the laying down of new bone - either because the laying down has slowed down or the resorption has sped up, the net result is bone loss and osteoporosis. Estrogen and calcitonin work to slow

down the resorption, which helps put the two processes back in harmony. So does etidronate, but it works much better, and while the effects both estrogen and calcitonin seem to peak at about two years - no increase in bone density - with etidronate the effects probably last longer. This isn't definitely known yet, as the research only went on for two years, but the physicians who conducted the study are optimistic.

Those on the etidronate had a 50 per cent decrease in spinal fractures over the two-year period, and those who had the lowest bone density to begin with, that is those at greatest risk of having a fracture, had a 2.3 decrease.

But etidronate is not the perfect solution.

Newark Museum

Vital link in American museum chain

By Margaret Tausa

NEWARK, N.J.: When I read that the Newark Museum had undergone a major renovation, I was as delighted as if the news had been of a friend's good fortune. I had lived for 20 years within walking distance of the museum and knew its strong points and its drawbacks.

The impress upon it of John Cotton Dana, its founder, was, in my estimation, the Newark Museum's strongest point. Dana had been librarian of the Newark Free Library for only one year when, in 1903, he set aside two rooms on the top floor of the library - one for the Art Museum and one for the Science Museum. The art quickly overshadowed the science aspect, although the sciences still have a place in the museum.

Dana had vigorous ideas about the educative function of both his library and his museum. A woman who was briefly one of his assistants told me that when she and her husband planned a trip to Europe, Dana had prepared a questionnaire which she was to present to museums in every city she visited. He wanted to know how the European museums related to their communities and their schoolchildren. The answer was that they didn't. Only in the great museums like the Louvre in Paris where art students came to copy the Old Masters was there anything resembling an educative function. In the others, an awed few tiptoed past the assembled treasures. This was definitely not Dana's idea of a museum.

He quickly established programmes which brought schoolchildren to the museum, or special exhibits to the classrooms. A Junior Museum was established as early as 1913. There were also outreach programmes for adults.

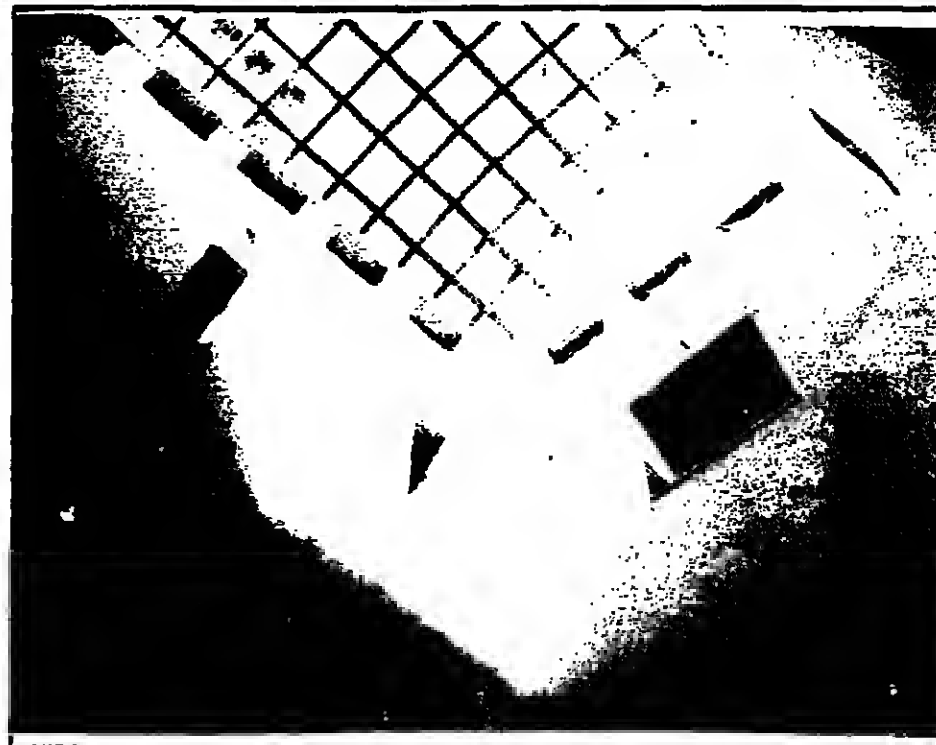
Dana was also farsighted enough to acquire collections of art which today justifies the current director's, Samuel Miller, opinion that the Newark Museum is an important link in the magnificent chain of American art museums stretching from Boston to Washington, D.C.

The Newark Museum's first major exhibit in 1910 featured - perhaps oddly - a very fine collection of Japanese art and "Paintings and Bronzes by Contemporary American Artists." The latter was very likely the only museum exhibit of American art that year, or one of a very few, Miller affirms. "What Dana didn't want us to do was to go into the 'Old Master' business. He wanted to concentrate on American art, and the contribution of American artists." Dana must have also realised that Newark could not compete with the well-heeled Metropolitan Museum in New York City and the Philadelphia Museum for the purchase of European art.

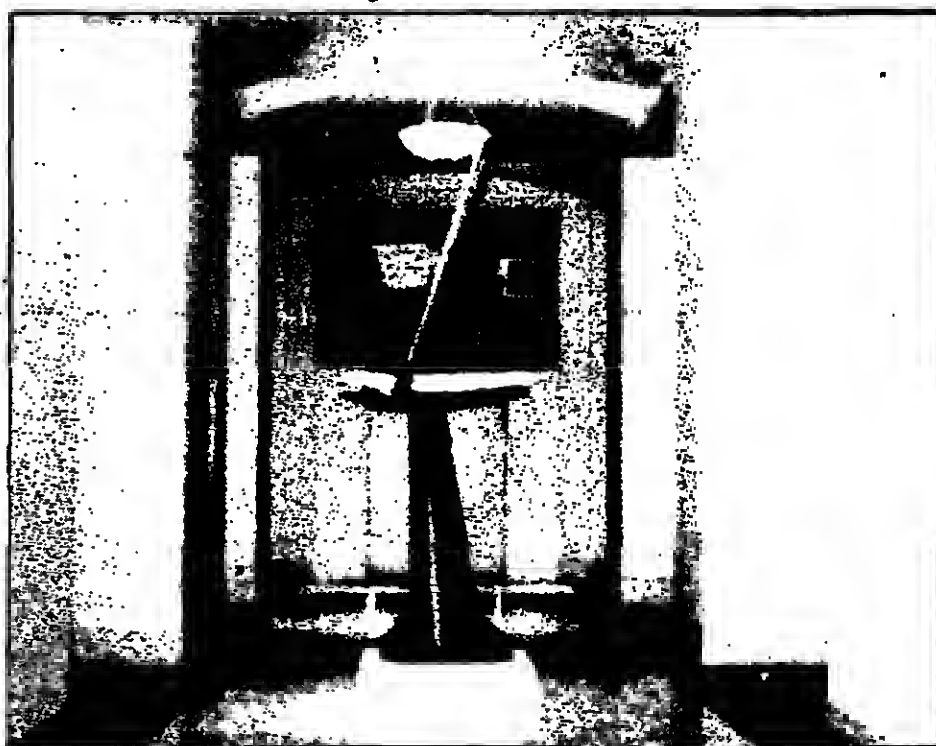
His interest in the exotic, however, was strong. It probably stemmed from an insatiable curiosity and a conviction that art does not belong to a designated elite. Another of his brilliant acquisitions was the Tibetan collection. It surely took nerve for a museum director to buy a mass of art and artifacts from a place which must have been almost unknown in the early days of this century. But now the Tibetan collection ranks among the foremost in the world.

With this background, I was intensely curious to know what the renovation accomplished. The first museum building was in what the architect on the renovation project, Michael Graves, termed "Beaux Arts style." Behind a sedate, squared-off granite front was a large foyer and an even larger sunken atrium, both of which were great for fund-raising affairs but were not good exhibition spaces. They did not leave space on the main floor, resulting in some exhibitions being cramped and even claustrophobic.

Over the course of years the museum acquired its neighbour, the Ballantine House, a handsome late-Victorian mansion, and a



North Wing Atrium of the Newark Museum.



Education Centre Hallway.

narrow office building running back behind the mansion to the next street. The restoration of the Ballantine House to its Victorian splendour got underway in 1972.

The latest addition to the complex as the museum's neighbour on the other side, the old YWCA building. A gift of the City of Newark, this reactivated a desire on the part of director Miller and the museum trustees to bring the whole thing together. Fortunately they already knew the man to do the job. Michael Graves had previously submitted a plan for the three buildings and the addition of a fourth - the peculiar architectural mix didn't faze him.

Michael Graves is known as a Post-Modern architect and his Portland Building in Portland, Ore., is hailed as a Post-Modern masterpiece. The term Post-Modern in architecture seems to indicate the move away from the shining glass-walled Modernist style with its vast open interior spaces toward a pragmatic approach which considers earlier architectural solutions whenever appropriate.

While the management of the Newark Museum from Dana to Miller has been prudent enough not to have a charge admission, the museum has never had money to fling around on marble and plush elegance. There is a vinyl floor covering designed by Graves with varying patterns in the new wings which is easy to maintain and easy on the museum goers' feet. However, a theatre-type auditorium where the "Y's" gymnasium was

is as comfortable-looking as the former one was uncomfortable.

The architect ignored the exterior disparity of the four buildings except to design a handsome entrance for the new South Wing utilising great bronze doors and a sweeping staircase, referred to in a news item as "ceremonial."

But is the North Wing, the former storage building for insurance company records, which is the Cinderella of the story and the architect's tour de force. Graves told an interviewer: "The North Wing makes one think of the Uffizi (Gallery, Florence, Italy) for several reasons. First of all, the light here is wonderful. Second, the name Uffizi comes from the word 'office'. It was an office building, just as the North Wing was. ... Ours is a sort of 'L' and not a square doughnut, but we nevertheless will take a kind of 'yellow brick road' through the whole museum, which will be filled with light, filled with major spaces."

To achieve that light, Graves opened up a three-storey atrium which is completely in harmony with the original atrium. It changes the interior so much that strolling from one gallery to another, the viewer has no sense of going through different structures. There are other modifications and unifying ornamentation. The architect also designed the light fixtures. I was told the Graves used some 30 different subtle, neutral shades of paint to enhance the various spaces and the collections.

Norwegian pop opera debuts in London

OSLO, July 28. (Reuters): A Norwegian pop opera based on a 15th century tale of witchcraft is about to make its debut abroad.

The female duo Dollie de Luxe has been packing theatres around Norway for two years. Benedicte Adrian and Ingrid Bjornov, both 26, hope to change Norway's reputation as a musical backwater and are now seeking international success for the opera they wrote and composed, "Which Witch."

The two are to perform, with a cast of 15 others, in Stratford-on-Avon in England this week - their first performance to a public audience abroad.

"Their brilliant new pop opera ... proclaims the arrival of a new and vital voice from the frozen north," Time magazine wrote after the duo performed to a private audience in Amsterdam last year.

Time rated Which Witch, part of a renaissance in Norwegian popular music, as the most impressive new composition from Scandinavia since Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus of Sweden's Abba wrote the music for the 1985 stage show Chess.

Adrian and Bjornov have recently reworked and expanded the opera which is sung in English and blends the styles of opera and musical with rock.

But the two say that coming from Norway with no previous experience of composing opera may not be ideal references.

"If you heard someone telling you that there are some Norwegians who have never written an opera before, but that they're great, what would you think?" asks Adrian, whose soaring soprano extends to a window-shattering B flat above the high C.

"You can't follow the steps of other Norwegians because it's not really been done before," adds Bjornov, who conducts while playing keyboards. Apart from the 19th century composer Edvard Grieg no Norwegian has achieved lasting international fame for music.

In the late 1970s Norwegian popular music achieved some notoriety when Jan Teigen became the first singer ever to score zero points in the Eurovision Song Contest.

But since then Norwegian pop groups A-Ha and Dance with a Stranger have had a string of international hits.

Dollie de Luxe's biggest international success so far was a single from its 1986 Rock versus Opera album, which sold 200,000 copies in Europe, mainly in France.

The single combines the highly demanding Queen of the Night's first aria from Mozart's opera The Magic Flute with the Rolling Stones' Satisfaction in a complex, swirling composition.

The two women have been the darlings of the Norwegian media and recently won a sponsorship deal worth more than \$600,000 from Norwegian industrial firm Norsk Hydro.

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Zach Galligan is the first to admit his debt to Gremlins, those demons with whom he co-stars a second time this summer in *Gremlins II*.

Galligan, 24, made his movie starring debut in the original *Gremlins*, which snagged \$300 million worldwide six years ago. Now the sequel is off to the financial races.

But Galligan, a Columbia University graduate, is smart enough to know that it isn't his charisma that is luring moviegoers. It's those barbarous creatures who delight in destroying everything in sight.

In fact, the personable Galligan plays something of a wimp as the Gremlins turn him every way but loose for a second time. However, his character does rally at the finale to zonk the little creeps into oblivion - until, that is, the inevitable *Gremlins III* comes along.

Galligan took a break from his schedule to muse about this association

Cinema

Gremlins charisma

with his raucous little co-stars.

"I've been surprised by the reaction of friends who have seen this sequel," he said with a grin. "You could say I have a rather *thankless* part. I'm the Bud Abbott of the movie, the straight man."

"That's always a little frustrating because as an actor I want to do more, a few moments in which I can create for myself. But I'm well aware that audiences come to see the Gremlins and that's the way it should be. They are really fascinating creatures to watch in action. They never stop raising havoc."

"There just isn't enough time in a *Gremlin* picture to put much meat on the

characters of Kate and Billy, the roles Phoebe Cates and I play. No one bothers to make our parts more interesting. So we ad lib what we can to show the relationship between us."

The *Gremlins* are the stars. Even John Glover, who plays the Donald Trump-type character so beautifully, is overshadowed by them.

Galligan laughed and recalled WC Field's immortal admonition to actors: "Never work with animals or children."

"It's true," Galligan said. "Only Gremlins are bigger scene-stealers than any kids or real-life animals."

After Galligan completed his scenes,

he had no idea what director Joe Dante was doing with the Gremlins and puppeteers who operated the imps until he saw the completed picture.

For three months after finishing his work with human actors, Dante directed sequences that included only the Gremlins and the special effects department at Warner Bros.

"It was a lot easier to work with the Gremlins the second time around," Galligan said. "I knew what to expect from the mechanical aspects. And I concentrated on the puppets as living creatures rather than contraptions."

"In my scenes with the Gremlins it was like working with animals, although it was a bit disconcerting to see five or six guys lying on the floor manipulating the puppets."

"There's not much difference whether you're pretending to talk to a creature or a human who is pretending to be your father. It's all pretending."

BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



AGATHA CRUICK



BEETLE BAILEY



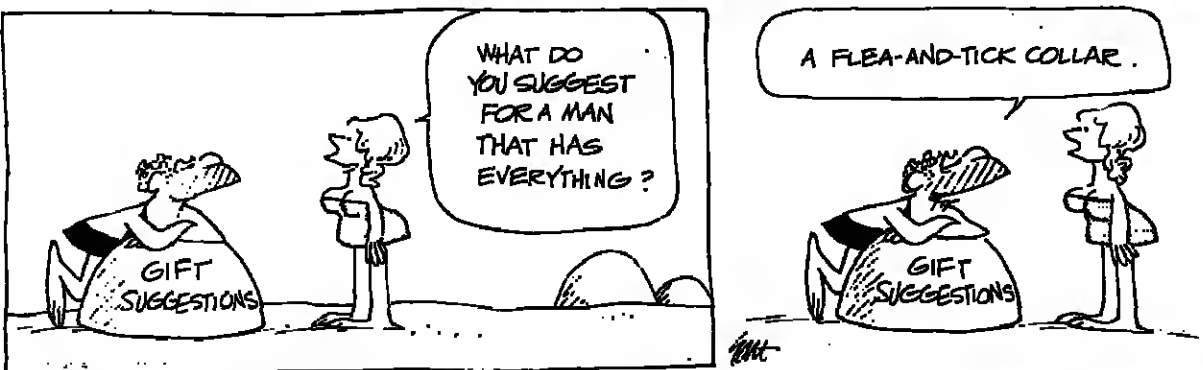
THE WIZARD OF ID



ANDY CAPP



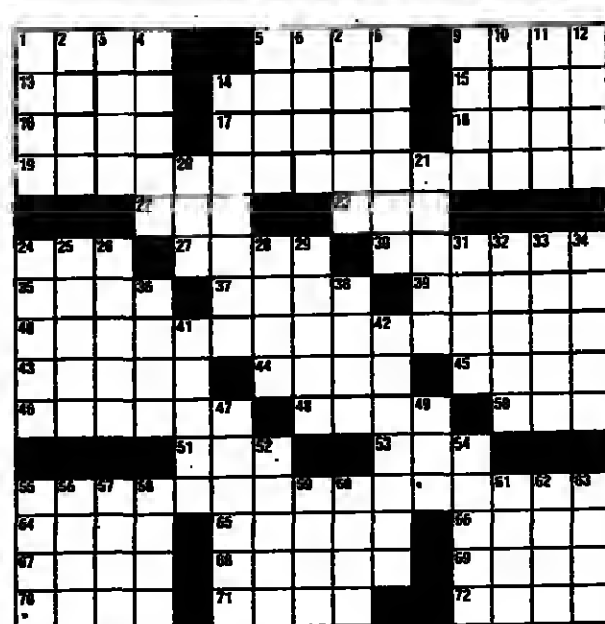
B.C.



HE-MAN



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Ullagonal
 - Canvas cover, for short
 - Assistant, on board
 - Small amount
 - Sweetie
 - King or Arkin
 - Wrinkle remover
 - de manthe
 - Chalcedony
 - Legendary friends
 - Robot drama
 - Coral or Red
 - Sound of a blow
 - the knot
 - Flamekins
 - Garnishes a cake
 - Scene of Perry's victory
 - Not a soul
 - Legendary twins
 - City on the Allegheny
 - Yaman's capital
 - Streeter's "Mabla"
 - Objective
 - One way to eat a burger
 - Answer to a proposal
 - Macaw
 - Assist
 - Sea 40 Across
 - Repeatedly
 - Toot
 - Fling
 - Euphemistic oath
 - Arena accommodations
 - Off the straight line
- DOWN**
- At the center of
 - Money, in Venice
 - Small amount
 - Mister, in Madrid
 - Shift
 - Ripened
 - Freeway access
 - Plundered
 - Prepara potatoes
 - Kirgiz range
 - Scarlett's home
 - Finale
 - More alarming
 - Cashew
 - West Indian of yore
 - Ornamental loop
 - Florida city
 - North Sea feeder
 - Prohibition at al.
 - Near-Eastern coin
 - Auctioneer's last word
 - In need of cleaning
 - Harden
 - Species divisions
 - Party line
 - Post St. Vincent
 - Milly
 - Tatum or Ryan
 - Processions
 - Believes in
 - Norse goddess of healing
 - Savory jelly
 - Transfer design
 - Make over
 - Pennsylvania Ave. office
 - Nothing more than
 - Footed vases
 - Range
 - Twarp
 - Balthazar et al.
 - Functions
 - Short distance

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ERAM LARS TAMER
ROMA ECHO ENATE
IDOL SHAO ANTON
CANALS KOP OHNO
ANGLOREMILY
SARIS PEWEWE
ASHE OALEORPAT
ACE TAE AOS MST
BILLORRAY ISEE
ASPIRE VESTS
LONLORMARIAN
HOOT TAW AMANO
ANNIE MARIA EGAD
LIENS BLIT LOGE
STAGE SISIS STIER

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
THE QUEEN SHOWS UP IN THE END

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ Q 5 2
♥ Q 10 7
♦ A Q 8 4
♣ K 9 3

WEST
♦ A K 8 6 4 3
♥ A 5 2
♦ 7 6
♣ Q 5

EAST
♦ J 10
♥ 6 4
♦ J 10 9 3
♣ 10 8 6 4 2

SOUTH
♦ 9 7
♥ K J 9 8 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ A J 7

The bidding:

North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

Don't commit yourself to a line of play until you have found out as much as possible about the hand. What you don't know can harm you!

We are not enthralled with North's raise to two hearts. With a perfectly balanced hand and a queen of spades that rated to be a wasted

value, a pass would have been more prudent. It's doubtful North's action would have made any difference to the final contract—four hearts was quite reasonable.

West led the king of spades and continued with the ace and another for East to ruff away dummy's queen. Declarer overruffed. West rose with the ace of hearts when declarer led a heart toward the table, then exited with a heart, leaving declarer to make the rest of the tricks.

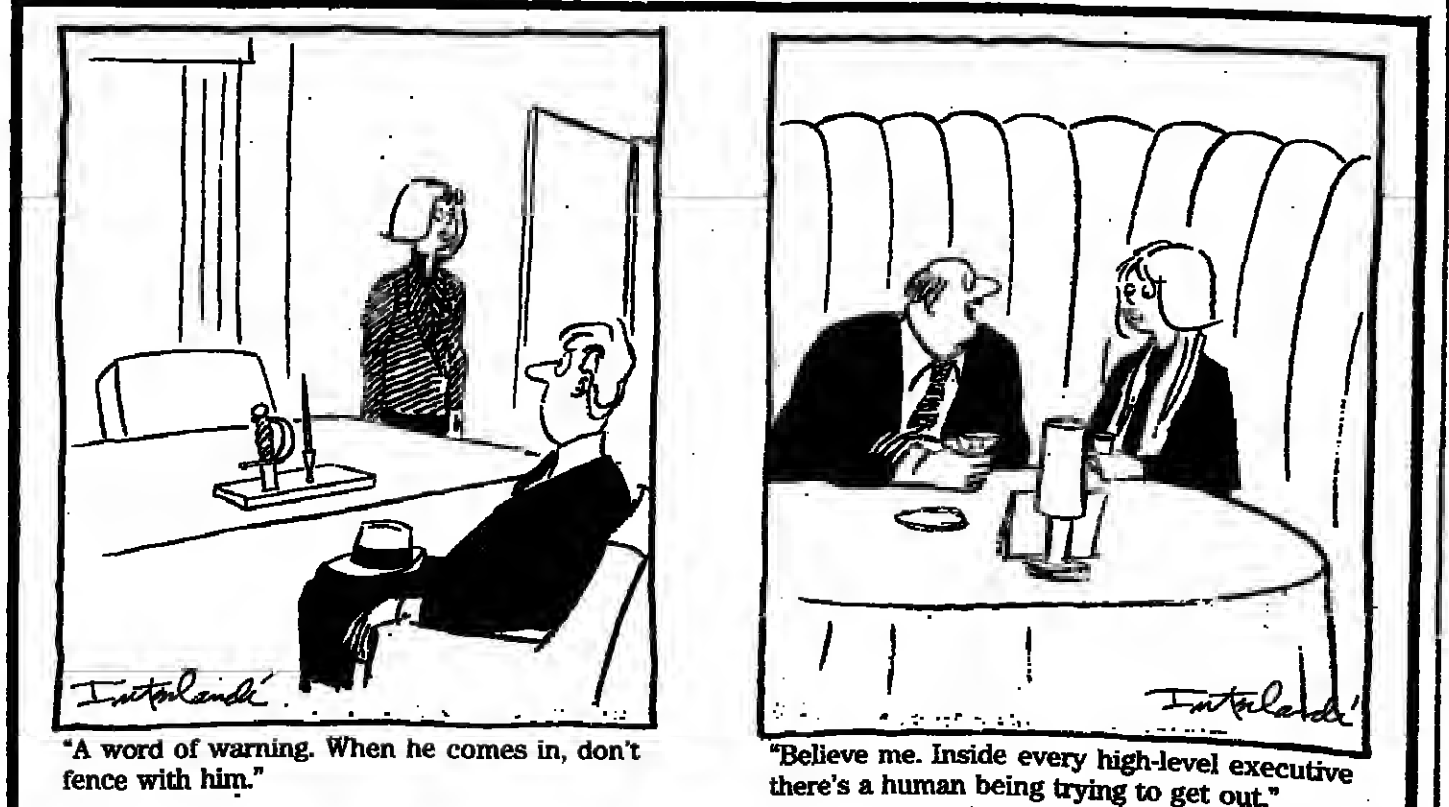
There were three possibilities—either a 3-3 diamond split, a club finesse or dropping a doubleton queen of clubs. Before committing to a line of play, declarer cashed the remaining trumps, discarding a club from the table. Next came three rounds of diamonds, with West discarding a spade on the last round.

The king of clubs now reduced all hands to two cards. When declarer led a club from the board, East produced the ten. If you now decided to finesse, you have not followed the play closely. Declarer knew that East's remaining card was a diamond, so he shot up with the ace to drop the queen and land his game.



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries March 21 - April 20</p> <p>You are more liable to give the game away so watch your step. Make sure you get all the rest you need but do not become lazy. Try to take your mind off work for the day. Be courteous.</p>	<p>Cancer June 21 - July 20</p> <p>Something you have trying to learn will now become easier for you. If you are going on a journey do not leave packing until the very last minute. Take your partner into your confidence. Be more lenient.</p>	<p>Libra Sept 23 - Oct 22</p> <p>If you are in to great a hurry you may have to do it all again so none too fast. Look out for what is behind you when on the road driving or walking. Do not leave any windows open or doors unlocked. Be prompt.</p>	<p>Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19</p> <p>You will be tempted to eat far too many sweet things and should do your best to refrain. Do all you can to avoid getting in to a muddle and spend a little time tidying up. Keep your wits a very much about you. Be considerate.</p>
<p>Taurus April 21 - May 20</p> <p>Not everything is to your liking but you will be able to make the most of it. Something you had hoped would happen but it will not be as you had expected. You should try to avoid negative thoughts. Be resilient.</p>	<p>Leo July 21 - Aug 21</p> <p>Everything will take a little longer so there is no time to waste. However do try to find a little time for your leisure interest. Avoid getting into an argument. Be magnanimous.</p>	<p>Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22</p> <p>Do not say you know when in fact you do not, there is no point in pretending. You will tend to be a little on the nervous side and should do all you can to calm yourself. Do not gloat upon what might have been, too late to change things now. Be candid.</p>	<p>Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 19</p> <p>You should do all you can to take your mind off gloomy themes, things are not as bad as they might seem at first. You must avoid jumping to conclusions nor should you believe that what you would like to be is. Set your children a good example. Be sensible.</p>
<p>Gemini May 22 - June 20</p> <p>You will be able to do something new and different. However a routine matter should not be neglected. Try to set your children a good example. Make sure you take regular one too violent exercise. Be tolerant.</p>	<p>Virgo Aug 22 - Sept 22</p> <p>Stand up for your rights but do not be insistent on every detail. A friendly discussion should not be allowed to turn into an argument. Try to find a proper balance between reason and your emotions. Be fair.</p>	<p>Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 20</p> <p>You should do all you can to make your partner happy. Make sure you do not spend so much that you have to worry about it. Take the best possible care of your health. Be true to yourself.</p>	<p>Pisces Feb 20 - March 20</p> <p>Take care, what seems like a good opportunity may be nothing of the kind. An old friend will appreciate your counsel and sympathy. You should have more faith in yourself. Be less selfish.</p>



Elkin and Mari-Vick Marin tie the knot

By Bada Pagdagdagan Jr

Pasay's turn next: Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cuneta warned vendors to clear up the streets or suffer the same fate that befell the vendors in Baguio, Paranaque whose stalls were demolished by Transportation and Communication Secretary Oscar Orbes.

Cuneta also clarified early reports that he opposed Orbes' campaign in the city. The mayor said he was advocating for a kinder treatment of vendors.

In answer to Orbes' request for co-operation, Cuneta ordered Pasay City police chief Lt Col Rogelio Domingo, city engineer Jesus Reyna, and Environmental Sanitation chief Rodolfo Santos to give full support to the transportation secretary's campaign to clear up the streets.

Supply cement or face takeover: Trade and Industry Sec. Jose Concepcion Jr ordered two cement makers to supply 60,000 bags to government projects in Region 6 in five days or face government takeover.

Concepcion said according to field reports, Mindanao Portland Cement Corp of Iligan City and Floro Cement Corp, of Misamis Oriental were reneging on their commitment to supply cement to government projects.

Mindanao Portland and Floro Cement had pledged in April to allocate 30,000 bags of cement on the second week of May and another 30,000 bags next month to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Teodoro Denije Jr marketing manager of both firms, said he had informed Region 6 trade department office last May 3 that "due to some structural problems, the companies regret it cannot fulfill its commitments."

Mindanao Portland can produce 390,000 bags of cement monthly while Floro can produce 1.2 million bags a month.

The regular monthly allocation for Iloilo by Mindanao Portland and Floro Cement is 150,000 bags.

Fotog nabbed with guns, shabu: A photographer working for TV host and newspaper columnist Maurice Archache was arrested for alleged possession of firearms and shabu by Capital Regional Command (Capcom) soldiers in Manila.

Alex Van Hagen, 28, was surprised in his house on Lamayan St., St. Ana, at about 4 am by Capcom soldiers led by Capt. Federico Laciste. The raiders, with a search warrant issued by Calocan City Judge Antonio Fineza, claimed they found several aluminum foils containing shabu, shabu paraphernalia, an M-67 fragmentation grenade, and a .22 pistol from Van Hagen.

Laciste said Hagen was not their real target but a certain Florencio who was an alleged drug pusher. Florencio was not in the house during the raid.

Unemployment rate up: Unemployed people have increased to 2.066 million inspite of gradual but consistent improvements in the labour sector, the Bureau of Labour and Employment Statistics (BLES) revealed.

Full-time workers have decreased from 14.878 million to 14.576 million, the BLES said.

Significant gains in employment were achieved in northern Mindanao, Metro Manila, central Mindanao, Bicol, central Luzon and western Mindanao, the BLES said.

Shortfalls were reported in central and eastern Visayas. Youth employment declined by 5.6 per cent while female employment rose by 0.9 per cent, the BLES said.

'Refund tuition excess': Senate Youth Committee chairman Sen. Jose Lina Jr urged the Education Department to order schools which had raised tuition beyond the prescribed ceilings to reimburse the excess payment to students.

In a letter to Education Sec. Isidro Carino, Lina said he has received reports that about 10 schools have already collected tuition higher than the allowed 6.5 per cent increase.

"The present economic situation does not warrant unreasonable fees," he said.

Consul-general's son in shabu rap: A son of the honorary consul-general of the Dominican Republic to the Philippines and his stewardess lover were charged yesterday before the Makati Regional Trial Court for allegedly selling shabu.

Department of Justice prosecutors said Andrew Ronald Litton and Karla Marquez had been nabbed by NBI agents at their residence in Paranaque.

Confiscated from them were several plastic containers of shabu, paraphernalia for snuffing it, guns and ammunition.

Litton and Marquez denied selling shabu and said the confiscated items had been planted by the NBI agents.

Zambo murderer killed: An argument between two men led to the death of one of them and the wounding of the other in Tumaga.

Elizalde Garcia, died from four bullet wounds in the body. He was allegedly shot by Pat. Pose Castillo Jr who was arresting him for shooting Gilbert Silabay.

Garcia shot Silabay in front of the office of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Castillo Jr, who heard the shot, responded and tried to convince Garcia to surrender.

Garcia, witnesses said, refused to surrender and was about to shoot Castillo when the policeman shot him.

Meanwhile, a teenage girl was found dead with 11 stab wounds at the foot of the Jumbo bridge in Barangay Tetuan.

The girl who was wearing a T-shirt and short pants, could have been killed by drug addicts, police said.

Woman fotog robbed: A woman commercial photographer lost more than P100,000 in cash and jewellery to men who broke into her home in Barangay Mojon, Malabon, Bulacan.

Adora Tanjoco, 24, told police investigators she discovered the robbery when she arrived home from a wedding.

Investigators said the robbers entered Tanjoco's house by destroying the iron window grills near her bedroom.

Aside from the money and jewellery in a small box, the robbers also took two cameras worth P17,000.

6 Bengnet NPA rebels captured: Camp Dangwa, Benguet — Six New People's Army (NPA) regulars, including an area commander, have been captured and three firearms have been seized in five separate encounters in the Cordilleras since the military launched an offensive.

Three of the NPAs were arrested in Kalinga, Apayao. Probers identified them as Nicanor Guevarra, alias Ka Dario, an area commander and Kingdom Cayom, alias Ka Nestor, both of Sitio Bangil, Nambucayan, Tabuk, and Nestor Sabado, alias Ka Journey, of Baay-Lucian town.

The other three NPAs were arrested in Baguio. They were Orlando Perez, alias Ka Hugo, Susano Abalos alias Ka Tanny and Fidel Santos, alias Ka Jovy who were all arrested on Soliman St.

Cordillera Recon chief Brig. Gen. Juanito Aquias said no casualties were reported on the government side in the five encounters while an undetermined number of rebels were killed or wounded.

Two women pushers fall: Two lady pushers were arrested by police yesterday afternoon in Antipolo, Rizal.

They were Noemi Nueva and Raquel del Carmen both of Sitio Paragan.

Sgt. Ceferino Avendano said one of his men posed as an addict and bought marijuana from Nueva in front of her house.

Nueva tried to escape but police cornered her on a vacant lot near the police headquarters.

During interrogation Nueva pointed to Del Carmen as her source.

Shootout: two car thieves killed: Two car thieves were killed in an encounter with soldiers in Barangay Sto. Tomas San Jos City Nueva Ecija yesterday.

They had residence certificates in the name Anacleto Valderama, 28 and Delfin de Castro, 31.

Soldiers led by Capt. Vladimir Kahulugan and spotted two men on board a stolen jeepney with plate number CPD-127.

The soldiers tried to stop the men who then opened fire at them.

The suspects died on the spot from gunshot wounds in the body.

Authorities recovered two .38 revolvers, bullets, two hand grenades, a master key.

ACID commentaries on marriage are nothing new. Wits have been founding their reputations upon them for centuries. But lately, this most venerable of human institutions has been on the receiving end of an increasing number of hard knocks, and not just from literary types exercising their professional scorn. The shortcomings of marriage are now being spelled out by an ever-growing legion of the divorced, separated, the unhappy married, and young people who, in the somber light of their elders' bitter experiences, have become exceedingly wary about making any commitment to such a "disaster" themselves. What's more, many in the ranks of the disillusioned not only rail against marriage but would go further and deny its necessity.

It is surprising therefore that Elkin Marin, the other half of the internationally famous Salsa Boys, and Mari-Vick Zalcita, a young model-jeweller, both free-thinkers, after a short courtship opted not to live-in which would have been more convenient but to do it the traditional and "risky" way — marry. That was almost eight months ago and the couple agree that the decision had been a good one.

A beautiful surprise

Elkin Marin was born in Colombia but spent most of his life in Europe where the Salsa Boys made his name. For a man who has travelled almost everywhere and had been exposed to beautiful women of different nationalities Elkin never expected to marry in the Philippines — at first just another country where the Salsa Boys music may be appreciated. "Marrying Mari-Vick was a beautiful surprise," Elkin says. "For many years I've tried to get married in the many places I've gone to. But I just never met the right woman for me."

Neither did he have any idea about the Filipino woman and her qualities which means he wasn't pre-conditioned about the possibility of finding a bride here. "Nobody ever told me about the Filipina," he says. "Besides, even if somebody did, it still wouldn't have made any difference for me. I'm the kind of person who wouldn't trust somebody else's assessment of anything. Opinions can be relative. For

other people, white could be white but for me white could be brown. So I really wasn't biased. I discovered the Filipina with my own eyes."

It was in the party at the Faces disco where Elkin first met Mari-Vick. It was a very casual meeting but Elkin's account of it proves the romantic and passionate nature of the Latino — even in words. "I was in that party with a friend from Europe and we were out to find some action," he fondly recalls. "But the night turned out to be boring until I saw these two beautiful flowers in front of us. The scene was a garden of sorts but these two flowers stood out. They were Mari-Vick and her friend Ana. Right away I was very impressed. I hoped Mari-Vick would look at me. Nevertheless, I tried like a snake to get close. I did and I introduced myself to her. If there's love at first sight, that was it. That very moment I felt that I was already desperately in love with her."

Mari-Vick has her own version: "I really didn't want to go out that night but my friend insisted that I go. It was getting to be quite boring when I saw these two foreigners sitting at a table. They kept staring at us and they were smiling although at the time I thought they were leering. I didn't find it rude but I thought it was funny, in fact, I was laughing. And then he approached us, introduced himself and invited me to his show. I didn't know the Salsa Boys then so I didn't know what he was talking about."

That initial meeting took a few minutes and was insignificant as far as Mari-Vick was concerned. But on the weekend of that same week friends asked her to watch this show which featured two foreigners. According to her friends, they were terrific performers. Unknown to Mari-Vick, they were the Salsa Boys.

That, more or less, started a whirlwind romance with Elkin needing two weeks to propose marriage. "That was all the time I needed to decide that I finally found my bride. In Mari-Vick, I found all the qualities I've been looking for in a woman which I never found in other women before. By this time I've already found out for myself the qualities Filipinas are known for and she has all of them plus tremendous talent and charm."



Elkin, of course, possesses the legendary Latin passion and charm and the good looks that could melt any Filipina's heart. "Without a doubt, he has them," Mari-Vick says with pride.

Although possessing the qualities Filipino women are known for, Mari-Vick isn't exactly the typical Filipina. "I believe in asserting myself," she says with conviction. "A lot of Filipino women don't usually say what's in their mind. I do. I don't usually follow the dictates of the society, I always do what I personally think is right for me."

Most Filipino males may not be at ease with such an attitude but it is certainly one part of Mari-Vick which Elkin admires most. "We get along perfectly," she says. "In fact, we complement each other. I help him in his music and he helps me in my business."

My non-conformist attitude goes along well with Elkin's which is basically the same. We're quite alike — in our personalities, even our taste in music. We're both spontaneous, adventurous and "spur-of-the-moment" people. We're quite alike and this reflects in our marriage and lifestyle and it is working quite well.

"We don't follow rules in our marriage," Elkin agrees. "We don't set a specific time for sleep, for meals or for play. And we both see no problem in that. In fact, that's how we are."

Elkin himself isn't typical Latin male from where the super-possessive, jealous macho type originated. "I find the macho image and all the connotations that go with it old-fashioned. It doesn't work anymore especially with the new generation woman."

The man from Iloilo

Many years ago he was the flamboyant, man about town. It was not unusual, he had the right family background, the proper education and is acion to one of the country's biggest business empires. He had all the qualities to be one of the country's most eligible bachelors.

Albertito Lopez, Congressman from Iloilo, heir apparent to the political career of the former Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines, the future Vice-President of our country.

As the son of a politician, Albertito has all of what it takes to be a successor. With the political influence of his father, plus his personal merits, he is among those whose names are to be reckoned with in Philippine politics. His bailiwick is the Visayas, where the Lopez name spells magic.

Albertito was born and raised in Iloilo, where his family is one of the elite. He had his early schooling in the province and just like the privileged class of his era, he went to the United States to continue his studies. It was a military school for young Albertito. His contemporary during his school days was the now President of the Republic of the Philippines, Mrs. Corazon Cojuangco Aquino.

Just like the many scions to big business empires, it is natural that Albertito should train to run the family business. He joined the Manila Electric Company, which is family owned and the Manila Chronicle. Today, his involvement is in the family's real estate business.

Perhaps, as his connection with the family business did not require so much time, he had all the time to live a carefree lifestyle. Those were the days when so much time could be spent socializing, and meeting the right people.

Soon, the novelty of the carefree living lost its glamour. There was a change of heart. He wanted to be useful, specially to the province he loved so much. And the only direction he can



pursue is to follow the political career of his father. Politics, after all, is in his blood. With the help of the political lieutenants of his father, he ran as Representative of the Province of Iloilo. He won the position.

Today, Albertito views his position as just the beginning. Of course, he has his eyes glued to the office once occupied by his father, the Vice Presidency. Together with senator Joseph Estrada, the two look forward to the highest position in Philippine politics, the Presidency and the Vice Presidency, with Estrada as

President and Albertito as Vice-President. Albertito feels that with the magic name in the Visayas, he has a good chance of making it. He can win hands down.

As a congressman, he thinks of the small people. Together with his wife, Emily, Albertito has come up with livelihood projects, aimed to augment the financial resources of his constituents. So far, the livelihood projects had been successful.

He is busy helping the small people. He wants the reopening of Banco Filipino. The bank has

always been known to serve the ordinary mortals. Some used to bank with Banco Filipino to save their life time savings. With the closing of the bank, the small ones have lost their future. And Albertito, for working for this bank's reopening should be lauded.

Notwithstanding his faults, he is working his way towards the right direction. He has aimed to help the less fortunate doing his way. He must have that rare feeling of being in cloud nine. He is doing his share to make this country a good place to live in.

Embassy corner

Appeal for donations for earthquake victims

THE Philippine Embassy, in compliance with an instruction from Manila, wishes to announce that it is now ready to accept and receive donations for the victims of recent earthquake that hit the Philippines.

In this connection, the embassy would like to appeal to all kind-hearted Filipino workers as well as sympathetic employers and concerned people to heed this call for help. Thousands of our unfortunate countrymen are affected by the disaster and are in dire need of help. Donations either in cash or in kind will be properly acknowledged. However, for purposes of convenience and to facilitate the immediate shipments of donations without additional cost of handling and freight charges, cash donations is preferred.

To avoid complications and to reach the widest response of this call, the embassy will be officially announcing organisations or establishments who are authorised and deputised to accept donations.

The embassy would like also to announce that Filipinos coming from the affected areas can now inquire the list of victims through the following telephone numbers 532-9315 to 8 or you may wish to visit the embassy at Jabriya, House No 363, Area 10.

Flowery food

WE would like to show you that some ornamental or flowering plants have some culinary uses and can be used as food and beverage ingredients. In many countries in Europe and in North and South America the flowers of ornamental plants are made into candies. Some are used for flavouring and even others are used as main ingredients of some particular recipes. Do you know that vanilla comes from the beans or seeds of pod of pollinated orchid flowers? The generic name of this orchid is vanilla and is found in the South American sub-tropical regions. Some species are also found in the Philippines. The beans are roasted and grounded and mixed with some extracts for fermentation which results to the vanilla we use for cakes and desserts. Like other epiphytic orchids, the vanilla grows and lives on big tree barks. They enjoy filtered sunlight and cool temperature with a humidity of 50 to 70 per cent. If you want to grow a vanilla orchid you must recapture its original habitat in the outermost part of the forest. This means that you have to provide the plant with lush, cool, humid and partly shaded environment. Give it enough water to keep its roots and leaves moist but not soaked. Occasionally spray it with fertilizers for growth and for blooming such as phoskit, gaviota, sium, or albatroz. Apply the fertilizer at a dosage of 1 tsp. per gallon of water every week. Since the vanilla orchid has been taken out of its original habitat the plant cannot have its own immunity against natural enemies such as insects, bacteria and fungi. Therefore you must give it a regular application of pesticides such as tersan, dithane-M45, benlate or bolran once a month at the same dosage as the fertilizer. Phytosan can be used as a prophylactic to prevent algae and other fungi.

Violets, geranium, begonia flowers are edible and can be made into sweets or candies. These plants as well as their blooms are fleshy and succulent. The begonia particularly has a slightly sour taste. These plants can be raised in greenhouse or under trees and leaves where they will receive filtered sunlight of only about 30 per cent. They prefer a slightly temperature of 24 to 28 degrees Centigrade. Use very rich but porous organic soil of their potting medium. Keep the medium moist all day. Remember not to drench heavily, for the leaves and stems are soft and can be damaged through excessive water. The retention of water in the leaves can also be harmful so mist lightly on the surface of the leaves. Organic and slow released fertilizers can slowly be used together on the medium of these plants. Pellets of 14-14-14 or melted urea at a proportion of a tsp per gallon of water can also be given as an alternate. Apply fertilizers at a once a month interval. For safer application of plant food and pest control, weaken the dilute half its dosage. Since geraniums, violets and begonias are rather vulnerable plants, we suggest you sterilize the potting media by baking or heating the soil at a high temperature of 350 degrees of 30 minutes and apply a strong fungicide after cooking. Use the media one day after sterilization.

Suntan or ixora flowers, rose and chrysanthemum petals, dandelion, dahlias and sampaguitas can be made into tea for medicinal and refreshment purposes. This tea can also be mixed into punches and other concoctions. The bare flowers can also be used to make candies and other sweets. These flowering plants are hardy and are easy to take care besides they are also easy to propagate. They grow as shrubs or bushes and can tolerate full sun the whole day. Roses, Suntan, sampaguita, are good as hedges or boarder plants, while dahlias, mums and dandelions grow well when potted. Use ordinary garden soil mixed with humus and other organic matters for potting medium. All these flowering plants are heavy feeders therefore they should be given organic fertilizers even 3 or 4 months together with time release or slow release fertilizer. Also a regular spraying of soluble complete fertilizer once a week will make the plants bloom faster. Aphids, millihugs, scale insects, caterpillars and thrips are their common enemies. To control them spray regularly (once a month with malathion or other similar insecticides). For sucking insects that are hard to control because of their thick body coverings such as stem borers, army worms and scales, use systemic insecticides Azodrin 168. If infestation is heavy, apply the chemical at a dosage of 1 tsp per gallon of water every 5 days for 5 consecutive times. Black spots, dry rots, soft rots, and other fungal and bacterial infections are present in the air and in the ground specially during rainy seasons. Apply phytosan of preventive measures and dithane or benlate for remedy or cure.

Why can't we accept help?

By Willie Ng

CRITICISM on the sluggish government reaction to the ravages caused by the killer earthquake has concentrated on the snail-paced deployment of rubble-removing equipment, food and medicine.

What is more inexcusable is the lack of effort to find out the extent of the damage.

As the government focussed its attention on Cabanatuan and Baguio, it took days to find out that there were other hard-hit areas: Dagupan city, vast stretches of Dalton Pass leading to the Cagayan Valley, La Union, Nueva Vizcaya.

It took more than three days for word about the Dalton Pass landslides — which trapped or killed thousands — to reach Manila.

Could not the air force have flown survey missions to discover all these tragedies right after the quake struck?

President Aquino, in his visit to Cabanatuan, noted the lack of organisation among the rescuers and demanded to know: "Who's in charge here?"

Who's in charge indeed — not only in Cabanatuan but in the overall?

Olongapo Mayor Dick Gordon, when he heard about the tragedy in Cabanatuan, must have remembered the words of then Secretary of State Alexander Haig when President Reagan was shot: "I am in charge here."

That five-word sentence got Haig in deep

trouble. But no matter. Dick took charge of asking Subic base authorities for men and equipment and took them without delay to Cabanatuan.

To get around red tape, Dick put his 110 US soldiers and their equipment under the charge of Mayor Honorato Perez.

How many lives these men and their equipment saved at that collapsed school building will be known later.

Clark Field authorities also did not wait to be asked: at the crack of dawn Tuesday, they sent helicopter loaded with men, equipment and supplies to Baguio City — the first organised relief group to arrive there.

Without waiting for official authorisation, which never came, the US servicemen pitched in to extract the living and the dead from the ruins of the Nevada Hotel.

Wednesday, a US air force plane took for Clark with a 20-man search and rescue team (which took part in rescue work in the recent Iran earthquake-damaged areas) and 16,000 pounds of equipment.

Another plane took off from Guam with relief supplies and equipment.

A giant C-5 Galaxy jet landed in Subic with \$2 million worth of relief goods.

Scheduled to arrive in Subic are some Jolly Green Giant helicopters, also known as flying cranes.

From the private sector, the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT & T) has shipped

a high-power communications antenna system to be set up in Baguio to link it with the rest of the country.

Sitting in Subic Bay is the helicopter carrier USS Okinawa, waiting since Wednesday for word from the Philippine government to let loose its 51 helicopters to drop supplies anywhere they are needed.

There are so many villages and towns which only now are discovered to be in dire need of help. Others are yet to be discovered.

In the Ambuklao area, in Benguet and in Nueva Vizcaya, there are thousands waiting for food and medical attention. Many have been isolated by earthquake-damaged roads and bridges?

The helicopters of the USS Okinawa are just right for this type of relief work. They can save the uncounted thousands of the injured and the hungry.

Why is the administration refusing this great opportunity to save lives and alleviate the suffering of thousands?

Is it because of the backlash from the request for the Phantom jets during the Dec 1 coup attempt? Is it because the bases talks are only a month away?

As unnamed foreign affairs official was reported to be worried that the Americans might remind the Philippine panel of this earthquake assistance when the talks get underway.

Are the Americans really that gross? Is it all for p.r.? Nothing from the heart?

Invitation to a beheading?

LAST month we marked Rizal's birthday anniversary.

Last June 6, I got a copy of a Conference Committee Report on the Metro Manila problem. It may solve the latter's situation but create new ones for Rizal. June, 1990 also marks the 89th anniversary of a historic meeting that took place in the Pasig Catholic Church under the leadership of Don Juan Sumulong who put together what today the Report seeks to put as under.

Do we now undo his work? Do we have no sense of history whatever? What national benefit do we get by removing 12 towns from a first class premier province and downgrading it into a second class one? Without a capital. Without a capital.

We will vote on the Report when sessions resume in a few weeks. Meantime, I urge all concerned to ponder the implications of the formal dismemberment and beheading of our mother Province, with which I will be associated forever, as part of my "accomplishments."

I acknowledge the hard work behind the Report. Still, I am uncomfortable that the Senate President, a great son of Rizal, of all people, will preside over her formal liquidation. History may yet condemn us for formalizing her humiliation, a result I tried in vain to prevent as a Pasigueno, Razaleno and Filipino. We seem to be more impressed with what Mr Marcos did some 15 years than with what Don Juan Sumulong did 90 years ago.

Last June 1, former Sen Arturo Tolentino, a son of Angono, said that one reform he would like to see is giving a Conference Committee a deadline to complete its work. I see his point.

The bill before us has hibernated for nearly 21/2 years. Meantime, we have known more questions, but not their answers. Startling is the ratification, in the very title of the new bill itself, of E.O. No 392, of Jan 9, 1990, something that the Congress therefore, could not have considered in 1987-88 when it deliberated on it. I have a number of misgivings.

1. On March 29, 1988, there was a news report saying that "Cong. Sumulong said he was surprised that Senators who are from the old province of Rizal — Senate President Jovito Salonga and Senators Rene Saguisag and Neptali Gonzales — were only moving now after being "so notoriously silent about the return of the 12 former Rizal towns and the abolition of the MMC." Sec. 3 of H. No 40, of which he is the principal co-author, said that the 12 towns in question "shall be returned to the Province of Rizal..." Now he leads in the destruction of his father's work.

What made him reverse himself? With all due respect, one theory is that it is a reflection of the contemporary local power situation, not necessarily in the public interest. It may help assure the domination of a clan, Gerry-mandering?

2. Let us talk of the procedure. On the PC-INP bill, I consulted with our colleagues as to the contexts of their concerns, for example, I protected these in Conference, within reason. Here, as one who grew up, lived, studied, and worked in Makati, Pasig and Manila, I am sorry to say that I was never meaningfully consulted by the conferees, if at all. I hope the Senate President was.

I had wanted the capital town to be retained that we may not so easily lose the glory that was Pasig and the grandeur that was Rizal. It would provide for a transition period at least before Rizal is cut loose. I consulted the people of Pasig and a majority did not seem to like my idea of a separate plebiscite for Pasig. I accepted this majoritarian consensus reached through dialogue.

When we remove 12 towns from any province, including some of the richest, do we feel guilty at all in formally downgrading a mother? What province in its right mind would agree to lose its capital and 11 other towns? In the Organic Acts, even tinkering with a barangay created howls of protests. Some future dictator may do it again and the succeeding democratic government would just accept it, based on what happened here, a precedent that could come back to haunt us.

3. The plebiscite provisions of the bill are tilted in favour of Metro Manila and against Rizal. The mother provinces of Rizal and Bulacan are to be discriminated against unduly in favour of their children, in-laws, cousins and friends. There will be an separate, second-class plebiscite in Rizal. That one would like to be independent and spread on its wings is only natural, but not necessarily healthy if the mother would suffer due to abandonment and lack of support. We represent the entire nation, and therefore, we must afford justice to all.

The voters in the mother provinces are given a diluted right to vote. This is a violation of the one-man-one-vote doctrine.

In 1987, Rizal had 419,253 voters. As of 1989 it became 449,515. In the National Capital Region it was 4,420,786. It is now 4,509,545. Bulacan had 655,778. It is now 707,828. In Pasig we had 196,067. It is now 210,575.



There is no way Rizal can prevail, even if all the voters there ask for the return of the prodigal children. What might happen here is that Rizal may vote overwhelmingly for their return. Let us assume a purely hypothetical case that a contiguous town such as Marikina or Pasig would vote to return and hope to be the capital of Rizal. This would count for absolutely nothing, knowing as we do beforehand the voting strengths in the areas concerned.

Jurispudence teaches us that the mother province could not be ignored. Certainly Rizal is affected. It loses its capital. It loses its hall of justice. Perhaps, its Rizal High School, which is represented by three alumni in the Senate (Bobbie Sanchez could have been the fourth). It may require billions to replace those facilities and yet we will keep the mother out. There is no provision for compensation whatever, etc.

I must be forgiven for my personal feelings here, having been elected, in 1987, as No 2 Senator in Rizal behind the Senate President, No 2 Senator in the National Capital Region behind Sen. Mercado. I was only No 4 in Bulacan behind Sen. Mercado, Salonga and Aquino but No 1 in Pasig.

Closer to the constitutional spirit is to have one joint, simultaneous vote including all the voters in the areas directly affected, the original idea of the authors of the House bill including its two representatives. Now, we will have two confusing, separate

and unequal plebiscites.

4. The possible emergence of charted cities, a vital act, is not mentioned in the title of the bill as a warning as to what we were doing. Indeed, the entire exercise is deceptive in that very little attention is given to what it will do to Rizal. All the focus is on Metro Manila. We do not casually create cities in a few words, as we seem to be doing here.

5. In our evolving conference committee procedures, it is not unknown that we ask resource persons to help. There are many questions. This bill seems to have no answers. The capital probably has to be moved elsewhere. Indeed, what happens to the Kapitolyo? In the Deed of Donation of January 25, 1949, between Ortigas, Madrigal Y. Cia and the Provincial Government of Rizal, the latter agreed "that it will use the lands hereto donated shall, upon such violation or change, ipso facto revert to the Company..."

Our premier town in the premier province is now in limbo. Why not given it an option to become the capital city of Rizal say up to 2001 to give Rizal a transition period to adjust? Else, we shall witness the beheading of our mother province. On whose hand will her blood be? Bahala na? Why are we punishing Rizal? Last year, a superhighway named after him was even given a new name. Must we continue bashing out second-class national hero?

From the provinces

FORT SAN FELIPE, Cavite City: Navy chief Rear Admiral Mariano J. Dumanas Jr urged the officers and men of the navy to participate actively in the discussion of the issues that confront the growth and development of the navy, particularly its modernisation efforts.

Speaking at the 29th graduation rites of the Naval Command and Staff Course (NCSC) at the Naval Training Command here, Dumanas said it is imperative for every navy personnel to support the command's efforts to develop awareness by the people and government leaders on the importance of protecting the country's marine resources and sovereignty through a modernisation effort.

He said that it is high time that the navy gets full support for its modernisation efforts so that it could protect the country's 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

He stressed, however, that the modernisation plan involves not only the improvement of the physical assets but also the professionalisation of the naval service through curriculum development.

Dumanas lauded the Naval Training Command under Capt Danilo Avellanosa and Capt Romeo Villanueva, Naval Officer School Centre superintendent, for their outstanding performance in the efforts to upgrade professionalism in the navy.

MANILA: THE director of the Manila Zoo said there are ongoing repair projects inside the zoo.

De Servillano R. Boton, officer-in-charge of the Public Recreation Bureau-Zoo, cited the repair projects in response to claims that the zoo is being neglected by City Hall.

Boton said that in conformity with the concept that zoo maintenance is a joint responsibility of the government and the private sector, several civic groups have offered to underwrite the expenses for some of the improvement projects.

He said that pursuant to the directives of Mayor Miguel Lopez to always keep the zoo in good condition, he has caused the painting of the railings, walls, animal cages, and the administration building.

He said that two comfort stations have been repaired and painted and two more will be rehabilitated. This will be done through donations of civic groups.

As far as the care of the animals is concerned, Boton said that with the strict supervision by veterinarians and zoologists, the animals are kept healthy as they are fed with proper quality animal food.

He added that despite the increased in animal food prices and in the number of animals in the zoo, he has been able to maintain the cost of feeds at the 1986 levels.

Boton said that while the zoo is the smallest in Asia, it has been able to provide wholesome recreation to over 1.6 million visitors yearly.

He also said that due to the strict administrative supervision, the daily gate receipts have been increasing.

Boton said that upon the assumption to office of Mayor Lopez and the imposition of reforms, the gate receipts increased considerably and the daily maintenance reduced by some \$5,000 or P15,000 monthly.

He said that through the initiative of the mayor, City Hall was able to get donations of exotic animals.

IFUAGO: Rep Gualberto Lumaog of Ifugao withdrew his charges against Trade and Industry Secretary Jose S. Concepcion Jr. for his alleged rude treatment of a visiting Taiwanese economic official.

Lumaog notified the committee on public accountability through a letter to Rep Victorio Chaves, committee chairman. He said the trade secretary had already explained in a meeting that he could only receive Economic Minister Chen Li. An last April on a "personal and unofficial" basis because of constraints under Executive Order No 313 of 1987.

The order prohibits any government official from receiving Taiwanese visitors here.

SAMPALOC, Quezon: A prominent businessman and sportsman here deplored the alleged "prenatal" bad roads starting from Lungsod town in Laguna to the towns of Lukban, Sampaloc, and a Mauban in Quezon province.

Roger Jamiro, a sportsman, said because of the bad road, travel to and from these places is inconvenient and often times delayed. Headed that the roads have been in disrepair since 1969, and government officials have failed to improve them roads as promised during elections.

"Everytime there is election, these officials promise to work for the release of funds for road construction and repair, but these promises are implemented more in breach than in compliance," Jamiro said.

MANILA: Twenty-six media organisations condemned the fatal mauling of a crusading community journalist in Isabela by agents of the Land Transportation office and their subsequent attempt to cover up the incident.

Reynaldo "Tatang" Catindig, publisher-editor of the North Sierra Madre Express, died of a heart attack while reportedly being dealt with fistblows and a pair of pliers by four members of the LTO's law enforcement squad in Tumauni town, Isabela last May 15.

Reports reaching Manila said the 54-year-old newsmen was taking pictures of the LTO men in the act of multitracking drivers when he was mauled.

Led by the Katipunan ng mga Mamamahayag Pangkomunidad sa Filipinas, the National Union of Journalists, and the Kapusanan ng mga Manggagawa ng Media sa Filipinas, the working press groups deplored what they called an "attempted coverup" of the actual circumstances of Catindig's death.

Autopsy findings by the National Bureau of Investigation reporting bruises and contusions on Catindig's body reportedly conflicted with a local police report that sought to project a natural cause of death.

Earlier, the Philippine Movement for Press Freedom wired Transportation and Communication Secretary Oscar Orbes pressing for an immediate DOTC probe into the incident.

Catindig was the 25th newsmen to die in the last four years since the EDSA people power revolution.

Deplored the attempted coverup, a joint statement issued by the 26 organisations pointed out that Catindig's assailant continue to roam the streets of Isabela "apparently without fear of arrest and retribution."

MANILA: Leaders of the House of Representatives said the chamber should probe deeper into the possible involvement of other lawmakers in the gun smuggling case of convicted Rep. Nicanor de Guzman Jr (LDP, Nueva Ecija).

They lauded Speaker Ramon V. Mitra's call for De Guzman, who was sentenced to a maximum 20-year prison term by the Pasay City court, to resign rather than suffer the ignominy of expulsion.

De Guzman, who professed anew his innocence, saying the guns "are not mine," and that "my name was used."

But he refused to identify who the real owners are and those who used his name.

Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) authorities recalled that unnamed members of the House had sought to intervene on behalf of De Guzman in a flurry of conferences and telephone calls but they backpedaled after the scandal was made public.

Judge Fermin Martin Jr convicted De Guzman on the basis of "incontrovertible evidence," showing the 314 assorted firearms belonged to the Nueva Ecija lawmaker and loaded on board the same Philippine Airlines jetliner he took flying back from Los Angeles last September.

Congressmen who know him well described De Guzman as a "kind, very accommodating friend" and said they were convinced he was "used" by shadowy persons.

The soft-spoken legislator has unabashedly described himself as a "gambler," having maintained a casino and, in Nueva Ecija, gaming centres during the previous regime.

Speaking Pro Tempore Antonio V. Cuenco (LDP, Cebu City) said that with Mitra taking a "hard-line but benevolent position" in treating the case, the House leadership is now certain of expulsion, if De Guzman does not resign.

"I'm determined to fight for my innocence, if it takes a lifetime," De Guzman told media. "I'm through receiving orders and serving people

who only let me down. "They even chose a lawyer who is weak and let me down," said De Guzman who has fired the counsel and replaced him with Dean Antonio Coronel.

SAN FERNANDO, La Union: A combined team of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Economic Intelligence Investigation Bureau have seized some 1.3 million board feet reportedly illegally cut logs valued at P12.5 million while these were about to be unloaded at the seaport here.

This developed as the regional office of the DENR deployed strike forces to the provinces in the Ilocos Region to go after scrupulous businessmen using the region as dumping site for illegally cut logs and lumber believed to have been purchased under highly questionable means.

Region I technical director for forestry Antonio Principe said the seizure came in the wake of reports that enterprising lumber suppliers were defying the provisions of their contracts with the DENR by diverting their supply to other buyers.

The diversion, Principe said, might cause artificial shortage of lumber supply in Metro Manila and subsequent increase in their prices because Ilocos Region has practically cornered the bulk of the procured lumber.

ELIB Region I Director Felicitiano Alano said the logs were reportedly owned by a Chinese saw mill operator in Dagupan City who was identified as George Chan.

Quoting reports of Teofilo Legaspi, head of the ELIB intelligence division, Alano said preventive seizure order was served on Chan immediately after the raid was conducted.

Earlier, Alano said operatives of the ELIB and the provincial command of the PC-INP here confiscated some 14,000 board feet of red and white lawan in the lumber yard of Vicente Uy, owner of the Bauang Lumber.

The seizure was effected by the raiding teams after the buyer of the forest products worth P210,000 presented spurious papers.

Initial results of the investigation showed that the lumber came from Baker, Aurora.

PARANAGUE: Seven persons were wounded in two violent incidents — an armored van ambush and a gunbattle between suspected gunrunners and PC Capital Regional Command (Capcom) soldiers.

Both incidents took place in Paranaque, Metro Manila. At about 10 am, three hank employees were wounded when five heavily armed men ambushed an armored van of the China Banking Corp. in Valley 11 subdivision on Sucat Road.

Wounded were Enrique Pante, 54, teller; Lorenzo Molo, 32, and Aquino Dado, both security guards.

The group was on its way to the China Banking office in Makati to get cash.

The attackers fled with the guards' shotguns on board a white Toyota Corolla.

Some 30 minutes later, four persons were wounded when a group of Capcom soldiers traded shots with suspected gunrunners in Evacom subdivision, also in Paranaque.

Wounded were Sgt Leodivito Guto of the Paranaque police; Dalmacio de la Cruz, Jerry Barroga, 20, and Feliciano Gajo, 45, all bystanders.

The Capcom soldiers were conducting surveillance on Durian St when a suspected gunrunner arrived. The Capcom soldiers were fired upon by the suspect who was later re-enforced by several armed men aboard two cars.

During a brief chase, the armed men chanced upon a Paranaque mobile patrol car which they also fired upon, thinking that it was a blocking force of the Capcom. This resulted in the wounding of Guto.

NAIJA, oriental Mindoro: Public Works Undersecretary Jose P. Mabanta has lauded Rep. Rodolfo G. Valencia of the first district, this province, for drawing up a 10-year development program for his district.

Mabanta, guest of honor of the 16th regular session of the Congress ng Mamamahayag ng Siliangang Mindoro (KMSM) in barangay Aurora, this town said "this visionary work of Valencia serves as his guide in formulating legislations for development of his district."

Horse-mounted police eyed for QC Circle

QUEZON CITY may yet have its own version of the world-famous British horse-mounted police.

The QC mounted police, to be called "Mga Alagad ng Puting Bantayog ng Lungsod Quezon," was proposed yesterday by Councilor Herminio Bautista before the city council.

Bautista said he plans to have this special unit consisting of 12 policemen mounted on horses to patrol inside the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Both policemen and horses will wear gaily-coloured clothing and equipment, he said in an interview. They will be mainly decorative he said.

Bautista said he was seeking P2.5 million for the project.

He said the mounted police patrol will be a big city attraction for local and foreign tourists. It is line with the city's growing reputation as an entertainment centre for the country, he said.

He said it would also mean added income for the city, because the horses can be rented out for public rides, to foreign tourists and for film and TV scenes.

The project would be assigned to the QC cultural and tourism affairs office, the city parks and playgrounds development office and the city police, he said.

Mining work at Benguet, Philex stops

A MAJOR Philippine gold and copper producer, (Philex Mining) said it has suspended operations at its mine in northern Benguet province because Monday's earthquake had cut off electric power in the area.

Philex chairman Henry Brimo told reporters the company faces daily losses of 4.9 mln pesos because of the suspension.

Benguet Corp, the country's biggest gold producer, also suspended work but gave no estimate of potential losses.

For the love of ballet

BALLET has more or less taken a strong foothold in the promotion of arts and culture in the Philippines. With the emergence of Alice Reyes and the Cultural Centre of the Philippines Dance Company and Ballet Philippines, ballet has leapt into the limelight.

Ballet is defined as a form of theatrical performance in which classical dancing is employed, usually in conjunction with music, pantomime and painting, to tell a story or express a theme. This kind of dance was formerly considered as one notch below the more serious arts of opera or orchestral music but lately, it has found a niche in the cultural spotlight so much so that ballet dancers get so passionate about their art.

This is how Toni Lopez Gonzalez considers her choice art — passionate and intense. Were she to live her life all over again, she'd still be a ballet dancer.

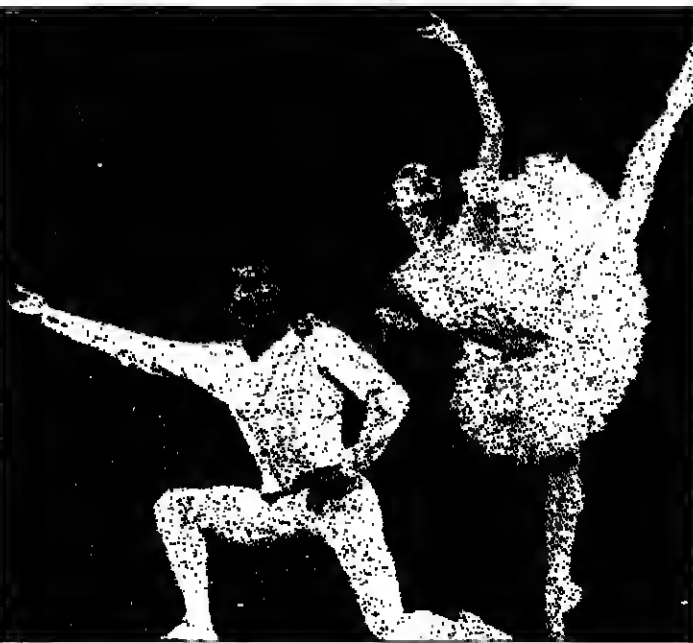
"I can't imagine doing anything else because I was exposed to it at such an early age. They've even told me that before they took mommy to the hospital to deliver me, she was still teaching ballet. Perhaps I began dancing when I was still in my mother's womb," Toni joked.

Her mommy is, of course, Sony Lopez Gonzalez, owner of the Academic of Performing Arts who was also into ballet when she was a mere wisp of a girl, six or seven years of age. Toni herself studied ballet under the tutelage of her mother at the tender age of four.

"But I learned to love ballet when I was already 12 years old. From mommy's studio, I went to CCP where I underwent consistent and rigid training."

At that age, Toni was already a member of the Taiwan-Philippines Ballet Company and was also a company director of the CCP Ballet Corps, an unprecedented move since she was the youngest member involved. When she was only 14, Toni danced in Russia with the company and even at that young age, she did not encounter any travel problems. Toni has been travelling with her mother since she was five years old.

The responsibility of dancing the great classical ballets is really



two-fold, according to a well-known danseuse; first you feel the responsibility that tradition imposes, both in technique and style, and second, of how it must be. All the great classics, it is said, have such exposed dancing that to be satisfied on all levels is both a challenge and almost an impossibility.

It was really a challenge to Toni especially dancing in a foreign company in foreign shores. But it was not an impossibility to her because she knew she could do it. She won a summer scholarship at the American Ballet Theatre for four months and her mother wanted her to stay there. But the scholarship entailed membership in the company and Toni did not want to do that since she was still very young at the time.

Later, when she was already twenty years old, the Washington Ballet Company took her under its wings where she stayed for four years and a half. It is a touring company with a minimal number of dancers and with it Toni toured Europe, the United States and most of the Asian countries. Last year, the company performed at the Cultural Centre of the Philippines with Toni as one of the principal dancers. She has also performed at

the White House and at the Kennedy Centre for a number of times.

She is the only Filipina in the Washington Ballet Company but fortunately, she has passed all its rigid requirements. As in other ballet companies, a member must be tall, with long legs, light feet, but, most of all should be dedicated to ballet, all of which Toni possesses. She had quite a number of solo numbers when she was still with Ballet Philippines with which she stayed for seven years. Few of these are Cinderella, Romeo and Juliet, Sleeping Beauty, Swan Lake Ballet.

"Definitely, it was good training for me. When I was with the Washington Ballet, there were no full-length ballets, and the only one that I remember was the Nutcracker Suite where I was given the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy. We did mostly contemporary ballets. My favourite is Romeo and Juliet. There's nothing like its story and music. The combination is terrific."

Toni has returned to the country for good. She's teaching with the Summer Dance Workshop but she's still concentrating on her dancing with Ballet Philippines.

What made her change her

mind to stay here when the going's so good in the States?

"Yes, I was happy there with my independence and all that and also very well on the financial side but, it's a big but, I felt that over there, I'm likened to a robot that has to do things because it's your job. There, I considered it a job instead of my love, in fact, my first love. At least here, I do it because I love it and not because it's my job to do it. I may not have as much prestige here dancing the ballet but at least I am happy. It wasn't that way in the States. So I told myself I could not do this to myself anymore. It's not worth the sacrifice."

Since she arrived six months ago, Toni has been doing several things which she did not do in U.S.

"I am a person who likes several diversions. I get bored easily doing the same thing over and over again. Here, I've danced, I've taught in a free school in Dasmariñas — academic, not ballet because I really love working with kids. I have the ability to work with kids and share with them what I know and what I have. I've been guesting in several companies and one thing that really excites me is that I'm now a model. No, not in the ramp but in print. It's a different experience for me. I modelled for Landmark, and I got a kick out of it. Before, I used to hear from my friends, 'Hey I saw your picture in the papers...' you were dancing the... But now it's different. They say, 'Hey, Toni I saw your picture in the papers, you were modelling a... I get thrilled hearing that.'"

What kind of a man would qualify as one she'd like to marry?

"First of all he must be patient and must understand my love for dancing for I intend to dance even when I'm already married. He should make me feel worth fighting and waiting for. Dancing is what I love to do and he should not take it away from me. But when I get married I really intend to stay married and would do my best to work at it. If two people understand each other and work together in keeping their marriage intact, I don't see any reason why the marriage will not succeed."

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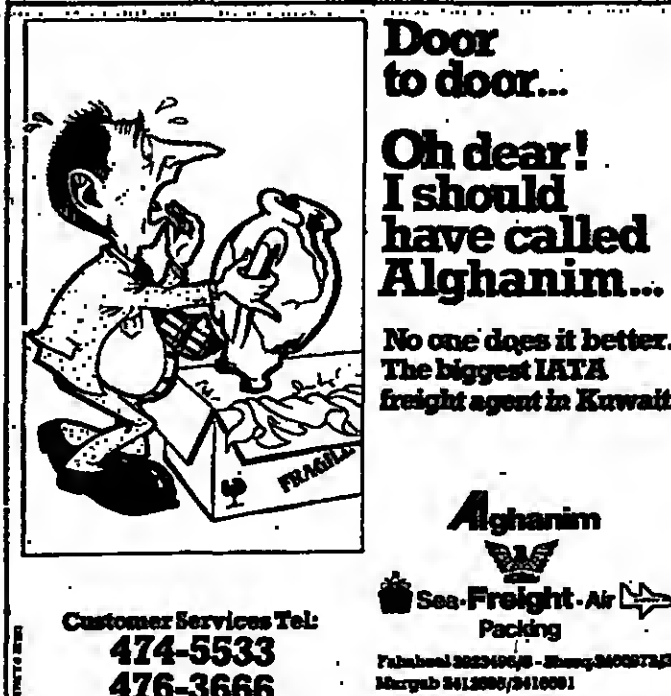
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SPORTS

Spaniards, Soviets in semifinals

ATLANTA, July 28, (Reuters): Spain, pointing towards a chance to avenge last year's defeat by the United States in the final of the Federation Cup women's tennis tournament, beat France yesterday to reach the semifinals against the Soviet Union, who beat a game Dutch team to advance.

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez swept through their singles matches in straight sets and then teamed up for an easy doubles victory to give second-seeded Spain a 3-0 quarterfinal win over fifth-seeded France in the Federation Cup, the women's equivalent of the Davis Cup.

The fourth-seeded Soviets, meanwhile, were having a tougher time getting past the Netherlands, needing a victory in the doubles to earn a 2-1 win after splitting their singles duels.

Today's other semifinal was to pit the top-seeded, defending champion US team against third-seeded Austria, meaning the top four seeds are the last four teams remaining.

Sanchez, ranked seventh in the world, said she got off to such a good start against Nathalie Tauziat that her concentration wavered. "I was winning so easily I lost my concentration," she said.

She failed to convert two set points and suddenly the 16th-ranked French player had drawn even at 5-5. But then Sanchez began playing well again and took the tiebreaker 11-9, saving three set points and winning on her own fifth set point of the match.

Tauziat said that when she lost the set, "I lost all my confidence," and with Sanchez playing at her top form again, the result was an easy 6-1 second set.

Earlier, 10th-ranked Martinez beat 33rd-rated Julie Halard 6-0 6-3. "I played very well today," Martinez said. "She made all the mistakes."

Halard agreed, saying: "She doesn't make any errors."

Meanwhile, the Dutch, who knocked out eighth-seeded West Germany on Thursday and were the only unseeded team remaining in the tournament, took a 1-0 lead over the fourth-seeded Soviet Union when hard-hitting Brenda Schultz pulled out a 6-7 (1-7) 6-4 6-3 victory over Lela Meskhi in two hours, 15 minutes in Georgia's hot midday sun.

Beaten

Schultz dropped the first two games of the final set before climbing back into the match by getting her booming serve on target. It was the first time in four meetings that the 50th-ranked Schultz had beaten Meskhi, who is 25 places ahead of her in the rankings.

The Soviet Union drew even when 12th-ranked Natalia Zvereva defeated Manon Bollegraf, ranked 29th, 6-1 6-3. That set up the decisive doubles in which Schultz and Bollegraf, in only their second time playing together, tried to beat Zvereva and Larisa Savchenko, the number two doubles team in the world.

It didn't happen, but the Soviet pair had to eke out a 9-7 tiebreaker in the first set before cruising home with a 6-3 second set.

"I think we were a little bit unlucky in the tiebreaker," Schultz said. "We were so close."

McEnroe loses to Sampras

Chang tames Agassi



Chang keeps his eye on the ball while reaching for a volley. (Reuters wirephoto)

TORONTO, July 28, (Reuters): Michael Chang hobbled off court with his 4-6 7-5 7-5 first win over Andre Agassi and a nauseated John McEnroe lost to Pete Sampras 7-6 (7-4) 4-6 6-3 in the quarterfinals of the \$1.2 million Canadian Open Tennis Championships yesterday.

The seventh-seeded Chang, fighting off cramps, outlasted the top-seeded Agassi in a two-hour 10-minute duel in intense 104-degree Fahrenheit (40 Celsius) temperatures.

"I feel great," Chang said, two hours after the match, of his first victory over Agassi. "My mind feels great, but my body says where's the bed."

In today's semifinal Chang was to take on the fifth-seeded Sampras. The other semifinal was to pit fourth-seeded Jay Berger against unseeded Jakob Hlasek.

The Agassi-Chang match seemed headed for an instant replay of their four previous meetings, with the fourth-ranked Agassi crippling Chang with every advance.

Although Chang did come up lame, it wasn't Agassi doing the dirty deed, but his own body. Chang's mental strength was tougher than his physique.

"It was way too late in the match for the cramps to make a difference," Agassi said. "If it was three-out-of-five, we would have had to dial 911 (the police emergency number) for him."

Until 6-4 5-4 with a break, Agassi was the stern taskmaster, grilling Chang mercilessly. Not only was Agassi, a known baseliner, beating Chang from the backcourt, his serve-and-volley game was winning points, too. Chang, however, is a workhorse. Basically, he will stay out there until he drops.

After taking the second set, Chang went ahead 4-1 in the third. Agassi broke in the seventh game when Chang sailed a backhand crosscourt wide.

The cramps started when Chang went ahead 0-30 on Agassi's serve in the last game. Chang pushed them away long enough to let Agassi falter by hitting a forehand crosscourt wide at 15-40 to end the match.

The 12th-ranked McEnroe was perturbed he gave Sampras the match. Sampras, 18, is definitely a contender — even McEnroe says so — but yesterday's match was a present from the legendary McEnroe.

"I go into these states of horrendous serving," McEnroe said. "I feel like throwing up after each set. I just go around beating myself."

To prove McEnroe was right, the 19th-ranked Sampras had 17 break opportunities in the match and only converted two. The opportunity in the eighth game of the final set with a backhand crosscourt volley.

"He won 80 per cent of the biggest points, but I probably won the biggest one," Sampras said.

De Leon loses crown

Douglas feeling better

CAPO D'ORLANDO, Sicily, July 28, (Reuters): Carlos de Leon of Puerto Rico lost his World Boxing Council cruiserweight title in disgrace yesterday when he was disqualified for punching Italian challenger Massimiliano Duran after the bell.

De Leon, who came to Sicily with a daunting 44 victories in a 16-year professional career, hit the relatively inexperienced Italian in the mouth after the bell for the 11th, penultimate round, sounded.

Shoes, cans, bottles and hundreds of sticks of spaghetti were flung into the ring by a furious partisan crowd and seconds later the WBC fight supervisor announced the 31-year-old champion was disqualified.

De Leon threw his late punch after earlier having pushed Duran to the canvas after landing a jab. The 26-year-old Italian was given a count but rose quickly to his feet, protesting in vain.

Duran cornered the Puerto Rican on the ropes in rounds four and six, and after being pushed to the canvas in the 11th, responded with a furious volley of punches.

After the referee separated the two at the bell, De Leon turned and lashed out at the Italian, hitting him in the mouth.

After hurried consultations with the fight judges, referee and the managers of the two boxers, the WBC supervisor disqualified De Leon and awarded the fight to Duran.

Heavyweight champion James "Buster" Douglas, one day after receiving the five-week postponement he sought for his first title defense against Evander Holyfield, yesterday reported improvement in his bronchitis.

"He's feeling better today," Douglas' manager, John Johnson, said yesterday. "He has missed training time due to a lot of different reasons but he thinks he'll be ready to train Monday."

Hours before the Holyfield camp agreed to push the fight back from Sept 21 to Oct 25, Thursday, Johnson said "All I care about is James Douglas the person and he belongs in the hospital."

Douglas' physician said hospitalization was unnecessary but the champion should not consider fighting until at least the end of October and should not train until Aug 6.

Although former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes never squared off in the boxing ring against fellow ex-champ Floyd Patterson, he intends to take him on — in court.



James "Buster" Douglas

Holmes sued Patterson. Patterson's business partner and the promotion company that set up Holmes' June 23 fight in Binghamton, New York, saying they failed to pay him in full for the bout against Terry "Lawman" Anderson.

Former world heavyweight champion George Foreman will meet Walter Masoroni of Italy in a 12-round non-title fight in Nairobi Oct 20, promoters announced yesterday in the Kenyan capital.

Bekki Hussein, of Exchequer Sports Promotion Incorporated, organizers of the fight, told journalists a team of five officials would fly into Nairobi tomorrow to finalise details of the match.

This will be Foreman's second fight on African soil. In 1975 he fought and lost to Mohammed Ali in Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire.

PGA event hit by club's racial policy

NEW YORK, July 28, (Reuters): Black civil rights groups are threatening to stage protests at next month's PGA Championship despite efforts by golf and civic leaders to heal the wounds inflicted by the founder of the all-white host club.

The Professional Golfers' Association of America, which is organising the event, is hurriedly pushing through changes in its site selection policy to reject clubs that exclude blacks while black Mayor Richard Arrington of Birmingham, Alabama, is acting as a middleman in trying to work out a settlement.

The issue has already caused several sponsors to drop their support of the championship and has prompted the PGA Tour and the US Golf Association to change their rules to make sure that host clubs do not practise discrimination.

The furor began when Hall Thompson, founder of the Shoal Creek Country Club near Birmingham, which will stage the PGA Championship from August 9 to 12, was quoted as saying that the members would not be pressured into admitting blacks.

"I think we've said that we don't discriminate in every other area except the blacks," Thompson was quoted as saying last month by the Birmingham Post-Herald newspaper.

Local civic officials immediately denounced Thompson's statement and black rights groups announced plans for protests and issued calls for a boycott of the event.

The PGA of America moved quickly to defuse the issue by revising its championship site selection requirements.

The two present criteria are 1) the quality of the golf course and 2) the ability of the community to stage a world-class sporting event. PGA of America president Patrick Rieley said.

"At the championship we will add a third criterion relating to the club's membership policy. It will be discussed by the board of directors at an all-day meeting on Tuesday (before the championship) and we will hold a news conference on Wednesday morning to announce the decision."

Irwin and Pooley share lead

GRAND BLANC, Michigan, July 28, (Reuters): 1990 US Open champion Hale Irwin fired a course record tying 9-under-par 63 for a two-day total 12-under-par 132 to share the 36-hole lead with Don Pooley after the second round of the \$1 million Buick Open golf tournament yesterday.

Pooley added a 65 yesterday to his opening round 67 to share the top spot. Behind the joint leaders two shots back at 134 were Mike Sullivan (67), US Open runner-up Mike Donald (69), Ken Green (63) and Billy Andrade.

Green's record tying 63 was aided by seven consecutive birdies on hole numbers 4-10. The seven straight was one shy of tying the all-time Tour record.

Irwin started his round quickly, birdieing the first two holes from 6 and 10 feet respectively.

Biasion tightens rally lead

BUENOS AIRES, July 28, (UPI): For the third straight day, Italian driver Massimo Biasion and navigator Tiziano Siviero raced over rugged terrain to victory, tightening their lead in the annual Argentine auto rally.

Spaniards Carlos Sainz and Luis Moya had to make up almost seven and a half minutes on the final day of competition today to overtake the Italian leaders in the race in Cordoba, located 465 miles (750 km) northeast of Buenos Aires in the Andean foothills.

Europeans controlled the top five overall positions in the race after yesterday's run, with the French pair of Didier Auriol and Bernard Occelli in third place. West Germans Rudolf Stohl and Reinhard Kauffmann in fourth and Frenchmen Alain Prost Occelli and Michel Roissard in fifth.

The rally, now in its eleventh year, is the eighth event in the world racing season. Prior to the race, which carries points for the world championship, Sainz and Moya led in overall points. Biasion and Siviero were in third place world-wide before the Argentine race.

Car makers, as well as pilots, accumulate rally points. Lancia, the world champion among rally car makers for the past four years, got off to a strong start on Wednesday when four of the top five finishers were driving their autos.

But Lancia team leaders, defending world champions Juha Kankkunen and navigator Juha Piironen of Finland, were forced to drop out of the competition Thursday with a broken gear shift, and yesterday only three of the top ten finishers drove Lancia cars.

Another Lancia pilot in bad luck was Carlos Facunda Menem, 22, son of Argentine President Carlos Menem, who dropped out



Biasion (above) and Sainz (below) in action during the rally. (Reuters wirephoto)



Thursday citing mechanical problems. In 1986, President Menem drove a Renault 18 GTX in the race when he was governor of La Rioja.

The fourth and final stage, set for today, was to include seven primers or speed tests measuring 85.8 miles (138.15 km) in distance over dry, often steep roads. The rally's ten leaders after yesterday's race are as follows: 1. Biasion-Siviero, Italy, Lancia Delta Int., 5:21:47; 2. Sainz-Moya, Spain, Toyota Celica GT4, 5:29:18; 3. Auriol-Occelli, France, Lancia Delta Int., 5:56:17; 4. Stohl-Kauffmann, Germany, Audi Quattro 90, 6:10:17; 5. Occelli-Roissard, France, Renault Turbo, 6:13:29; 6. Sainz-Del Buono, Argentina, Lancia Delta Int., 6:12:52; 7. Raies Gonzalez, Argentina, Renault 18 GTX, 6:42:14; 8. Martin Volla, Argentina, Fiat Regatta 85, 6:47:22; 9. Maccari-Ostasch, Argentina, Renault 18 GTX, 6:49:55; 10. Chali-Garcia, Argentina, Renault 18 GTX, 6:54:14.

Ertl takes 2-shot lead over Jones

BETHESDA, Maryland, July 28, (Reuters): Eight-year LPGA member Sue Ertl led after two rounds of the LPGA Championship, a tournament offering the first \$1 million purse in the association's history.

She recorded a four-under-par round of 67 on the challenging 6,246-yard Bethesda Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland. She had a two-stroke lead over Rosie Jones, who recorded a one-under-par round of 70.

Tied for third place at two-under were Cindy Figg-Currier and Cathy Johnston who recorded 68 and 70, respectively. Chris Johnson, who was the first-round leader, struggled to a six-over-par of 77 yesterday and was at two-over-par for the tournament.

Jones was on fire earlier in her round and at one time had a five-stroke lead over Figg-Currier and Cathy Johnston. She had made five birdies giving her a tournament total of seven-under-par and a nice cushion. "I was feeling so good," said Jones. "I was feeling really lucky."

Until the long and treacherous par-3 16th, Jones was feeling good. On the 195-yard hole, Jones hit a 4-wood into the greens bunker on the right. Her lie was rather bare in the sand and she skulled it into another bunker over the green. This time her ball was up against the lip. "I knew I would either skull it over the green again or hit it short," she said.

Karpov opens gap at top

BIENNE, Switzerland, July 28, (AP): Anatoly Karpov widened his lead in the international Grandmasters Chess Tournament with a win over US player Nick de Firmian yesterday.

Like De Firmian, Matthias Wahls, a 21-year-old West German talent, was handed his first defeat. Anthony Miles of the United States beat Wahls, playing black, in 33 moves.

Vlastimil Hort reached an unchallenged interim second place at the 14-round tournament's halfway mark after agreeing to a 27-move draw with Soviet Lev Polugaevsky.

Results
Anatoly Karpov, Soviet Union — Nick de Firmian, United States, 1-0; Anthony Miles, United States — Matthias Wahls, West Germany, 1-0; Vlastimil Hort, West Germany — Lev Polugaevsky, Soviet Union, 0.5-0.5;
Joel Lautier, France — Ulf Andersson, Sweden, adjourned.
Standings: 1. Karpov, 5.5 points; 2. Hort, 4; 3. Andersson, 3.5 and one adjourned game; 4. (tie) De Firmian, Miles and Wahls, 3.5; 7. Polugaevsky, 2.8; Lautier, 1.5 and one adjourned game.

Viola helps Mets demolish Cardinals

NEW YORK, July 28, (AP): Frank Viola won his National League-leading 14th baseball game and the New York Mets scored early and often last night, crushing the St. Louis Cardinals 10-1 at home to take over first place in the East.

Dave Magadan got three hits

and drove in four runs in the first three innings as the Mets took a 10-1 lead. Cardinals center fielder Milt Thompson contributed, misjudging Daryl Boston's fly ball into a two-run triple that capped a five-run first and misplaying Magadan's line drive into a bases-loaded triple in the

third. The Mets lead the Pirates by one game.

Viola (14-5) is second in the major leagues in victories to Bob Welch's 16. He allowed three hits, struck out four and walked one. Kevin Brown made his major league debut and got the final three outs, finishing the three-hitter.

Cubs 2, Expos 0

Pinch-hitter Gary Varsho's run-scoring single broke a scoreless tie with two outs in the 10th inning and Greg Maddux allowed two hits in nine innings as Chicago beat the Expos.

Maddux (7-9) won his third straight start after going winless in his previous 13, and helped the Cubs snap a three-game losing streak. Bill Long pitched the 10th for his third save.

Shawon Dunston drew a one-out walk from reliever Bill Sampen (8-3) to begin the game-winning rally. Dunston stole second and one out later, scored on Varsho's single to left field. Dave Clark singled before Ryne Sandberg broke an 0-for-17 slump with a single to score Varsho.

Padres 8, Astros 2
Andy Benes allowed two runs in 6 2-3 innings to earn his first victory in seven weeks as the Padres beat Houston for its fifth straight victory.

Benes (7-7) allowed eight hits in making his first start since July 17. The right-hander, winless in his previous eight starts, had

been sidelined with a sore shoulder. Greg Harris worked 2 1-3 innings in relief of Benes, whose last victory came June 4 against the Astros.

Jack Clark hit a three-run homer and Joe Carter added a two-run shot.

Dodgers 5, Braves 4

The Dodgers left a club-record 25 runners on base, but finally got one home with one out in the 12th inning to beat Atlanta. Mike Sharperson's bouncing single over a drawn-in infield with the bases loaded scored Juan Samuel with the game-winning run.

The Dodgers left the bases loaded five times during the five-hour and three-minute game, including the 10th and 11th innings.

The 25 left on base by the Dodgers set a one-team record for a 12-inning game, and the 33 combined left on tied a National League record set by Pittsburgh and New York on Aug 22, 1940.

American League			
New York	3	Cleveland	0
New York	4	Cleveland	1
Boston	1	Detroit	0
Toronto	1	Texas	0
Chicago	7	Milwaukee	4
Minnesota	9	Oakland	4
Baltimore	9	Kansas City	3
Seattle	8	California	1
National League			
Chicago	2	Montreal	0
New York	10	St. Louis	1
Philadelphia	5	Pittsburgh	2
San Diego	6	Houston	3
Los Angeles	5	Atlanta	4
San Francisco	4	Cincinnati	3



Cubs Dave Clark (right) comes in late as Expos gets him and throws to first to complete double play. (Reuters wirephoto)



Ertl reacts after sinking a putt. (Reuters wirephoto)

Beman upstages stars

TURNBERRY, Scotland, July 28, (Reuters): American golf tour commissioner Deane Beman upstaged his illustrious opponents Arnold Palmer and Gary Player yesterday by taking the lead at the halfway stage of the British Seniors Golf Championship.

Beman, who is taking a six-week holiday in Europe, fired a 67 for a seven-under-par 133, one shot ahead of Palmer and Player.

Palmer shot a 68 while Player turned in the best round of the day with a 65.

"My game is stuck together by chewing gum and rubber bands," Beman said. "A few ugly things still come out, which is not so good."

Palmer and Player were more complimentary. "It's fantastic for golf," Player said. "I even said to Arnold at the start of the week that the person who finished in front of Deane will win the tournament."

Palmer added: "He must have a nice job to take six weeks off to practise. Seriously, though, he has an infallible putting stroke and I think it's great that he's up there."



Irwin: hit a course record

طهران ۲۸ جولای

Gooch continues to transform England's cricket fortunes

LONDON, July 28, (Reuters): Graham Gooch, epitome of the English professional cricketer, continued yesterday to transform his country's fortunes with the sixth highest ever Test match score.

The 37-year-old England captain scored 333 against India in the first Test at Lord's, only 32 short of Sir Garfield Sobers' world record.

"It's nice to get 300," Gooch said with typical understatement.

"I was a bit nervous in the 290s because I didn't want to make a mistake. It's probably the only chance I shall ever have of making 300."

"I played better yesterday (Thursday) but there were a lot of runs to be had with their field spread out."

A year ago both Gooch and England were in the cricketing doldrums, unable to come to terms with the masterly Australian swing bowler Terry Alderman, and with the unappealing prospect of a West Indies tour to follow.

Gooch could not read Alderman's late swing and England could not cope with the Australians, who won the Ashes series 4-0.

Nobody would have been surprised if Gooch had opted out of the Caribbean visit and elected instead to join the England rebel tour of South Africa.

He had already chosen South African money by captaining the 1982 England rebel side and served a three-year ban from Test cricket.

Returning from exile, Gooch endured a

miserable tour of the West Indies in 1986, hounded by the hostile West Indies fast bowlers and demonstrators angry at his South African connection.

He had to be persuaded not to return home before the fifth and final Test and the following year he decided not to tour Australia.

When David Gower was sacked last

year as England captain, Gooch decided to accept the challenge of leading his country against the world's toughest team on their own territory.

Working closely with manager Micki Stewart, another down-to-earth Lord's donor, Gooch moulded a team in his own hard-working undemonstrative image.

England shocked the cricketing world

by winning the first Test but were then to lose their captain and inspiration with a broken finger.

They lost the series 2-1 but bounced back to beat a useful New Zealand side 1-0 this year.

Gooch scored 154 to set up England's third Test victory and his batting this year has continued to reach new heights.

Herbert to meet Benjie in final

TOP SEED Herbert Mendoza defeated a determined Rolly Rodriguez in the semifinals on Friday 6-1, 7-5 in the Filipino Tennis tournament before a partisan crowd mostly from Kremenco. Herbert lost some steam in the second set that Rolly capitalized on by forging ahead at 3-0. Herbert finally caught up with him when Rolly committed several errors with long balls and never looked back after 5-1.

Benjie Aldecoa, on court 2, upset second seed Nards Cruz in another gruelling semi-final match. Benjie blanked Nards on the first set, Nards got the second, but Benjie took the third from the tired Nards to win the match 6-0, 1-6, 6-3. Benjie will face Herbert Mendoza in the finals on August 3 at 6 pm.

In class B, Jun Dianito reached the finals when he beat Rod Doliente 7-6 6-3 6-3. It was a big upset for Rod, who had 2 match-points at 5-1 in the second set and another match-point at 5-4 but Jun survived the tie-break and eventually took the third set and the match after 2 and a half hours of play. George Opinaldo is the other finalist. He outclassed Romeo Mercado in the semifinals 7-5 6-0.

In class C, Homer Babalo will face Bebot Clemente in the finals. Homer beat Arnold San Diego 6-3, 6-4, while Bebot defeated Nick Villar 6-4, 7-5.

In doubles, Benjie Aldecoa/Surley Lago reached the finals when they beat Chito Lumayag/George Opinaldo 6-4, 6-1 during Friday's semifinal match. They will face Herbert Mendoza/Nards Cruz in the finals as the latter won by default over Mando de la Cruz/Willy Maranan.

Evelyn Cabrera is the first champion of the tournament. Evelyn beat Janette Hernandez 9-3 in the ladies consolation round finals. Roger Alangre became a champ when he overpowered Freddy Pagyo 9-6 in the finals of the class C consolation round.

Consolation

Results of the quarterfinals matches on Thursday: Herbert Mendoza beat Rene Urot 6-1, 6-0. Rolly Rodriguez beat Floro Penteoste 7-6 6-2 while Nards Cruz defeated Mando de la Cruz 6-2, 6-1. Willy Maranan overcame Rolly Quider 9-4 to earn a final slot in the consolation round of the class A division.

The schedule of the final matches are as follows: Thursday 5-6 J. Salvador vs W. Maranan for the class A consolation round, R. Tabada vs N. Ruiz for class B consolation round, 6-7 Sally Rioja vs Flora Nagales for the ladies finals, H. Babalo vs B. Clemente for the class C finals, 7-8, G. Opinaldo vs J. Dianito in the class B finals, H. Mendoza/N. Cruz vs B. Aldecoa/S. Lago in the doubles finals. On Friday, August 3, 6 pm men's singles finals class A, H. Mendoza vs B. Aldecoa. Awarding and Players Night follows after the finals at the poolside of Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Hotel.

This tournament is organised by Kay and Associates Tennis Club. The principal sponsors are National Bank of Kuwait SAK, Kuwait Tourism and Shipping Co., Al Rashid Freight and Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Hotel, in co-operation with City International Exchange/Far East Bank, Mahubay Restaurant and Saloon and Canada Dry, the official softdrink of the tournament. Donors are Maharika Novelty, Arlein's Handicrafts, Air France and Trendwave Shop.

Positive test

SYDNEY, July 28, (Reuters): Scott Wilson, an Australian rugby league player sacked by South Sydney last month after testing positive for cocaine, was dismissed by his new club North Sydney today following another positive drug test.

Azharuddin, Shastri hit tons

India need 78 runs to avoid follow-on

LONDON, July 28, (Reuters): Centuries from captain Moham-mad Azharuddin and opener Ravi Shastri today gave India heart and also hope of avoiding the follow-on in the first Test against England at Lord's.

Azharuddin looked to have something to prove as he displayed his full range of attacking shots to reach his hundred off just 87 balls in 130 minutes.

He was unbeaten on 117 at the close, having hit 20 fours in his century as he smashed the English bowling around the ground and helped take his side closer to safety.

India, who began the third day 48 without loss in reply to England's massive score of 653 for four declared, were 376 for six at the close, still needing 78 to avoid the follow-on.

The young skipper, in charge of only his second series, was criticised on Thursday by team manager Bishan Bedi for putting England in to bat on an easy-paced wicket.

But he and Shastri showed there were still plenty more runs in the pitch after England captain Graham Gooch's record-breaking 333.

Shastri was out for exactly

100, his third century in nine outings as a Test opener. His innings lasted just over four hours and included 12 fours and one huge six.

At one point he thrashed off-spinner Eddie Hemmings for 14 in one over but the bowler had his revenge when Shastri mis-hit an attempted lofted drive to Graham Gooch at mid-on.

Azharuddin replaced Shastri with the score 191 for three and shared a partnership of 50 with Dilip Vengsarkar for the fourth wicket.

Vengsarkar, chasing a record fourth successive Test century at Lord's, reached 52 before edging a catch to wicketkeeper Jack Russell to give seamer Angus Fraser his second victim of the innings.

Navjot Sidhu had earlier fallen to Fraser for 30, while Gooch, fresh from his destruction of India's bowlers on the first two days, took the wicket of the prolific Sanjay Manjrekar, caught behind by Russell for 18 with the score on 102.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings 653 (400 declared) (G. Gooch 333, A. Shastri 100, R. Smith 100 not out).

INDIA first innings (overnight 45, 46 no wicket).

R. Shastri c Gooch b Hemmings 100

N. Sidhu c Morris b Fraser 30

S. Manjrekar c Russell b Gooch 18

D. Vengsarkar c Russell b Fraser 52

M. Azharuddin not out 117

S. Tendulkar b Lewis 10

M. Prabhakar c Lewis b Malcolm 25

Kapil Dev not out 14

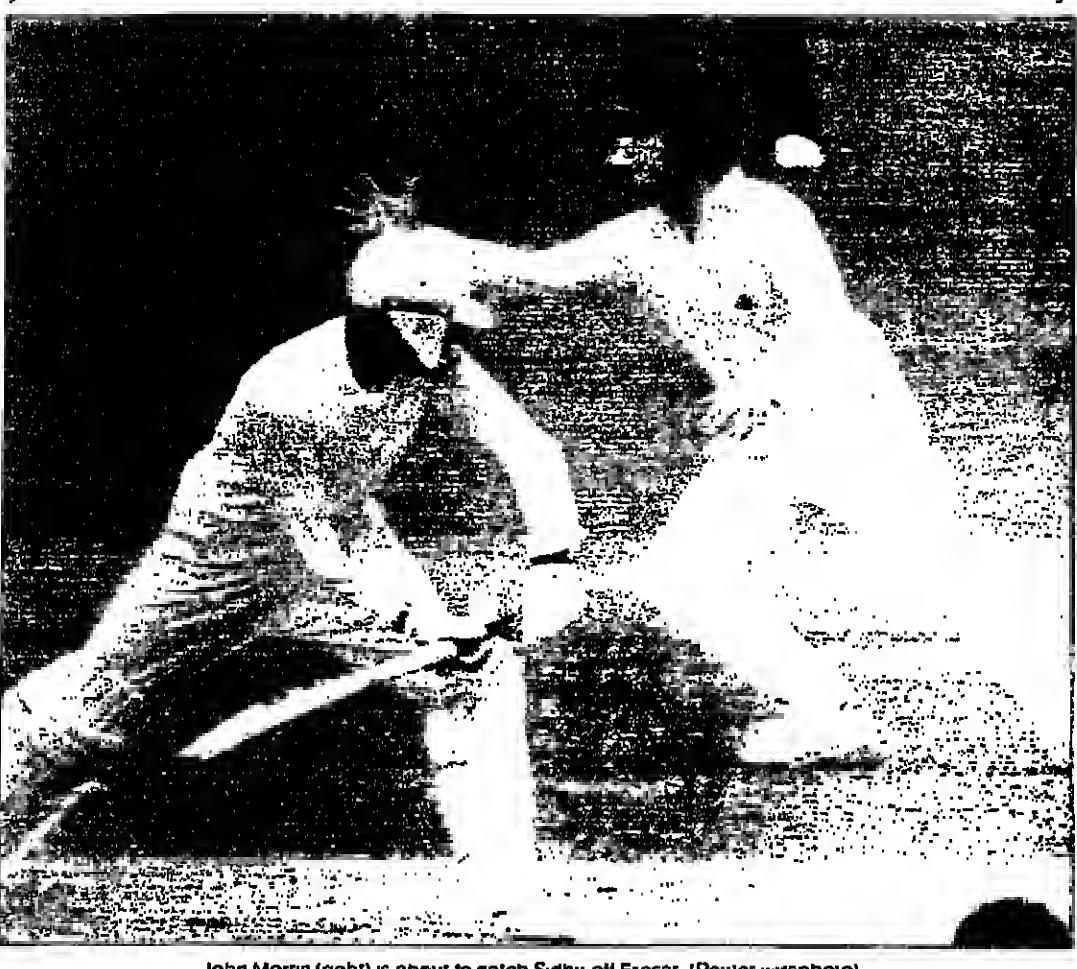
Extras (lb-1, wd-4, nb-5) 10

Total (for six wickets) 376

Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-102, 3-191, 4-241, 5-288, 6-348.

To bat: K. More, S. Sharma, N. Hirwani.

Bowling to date: Malcolm 25-1-106-1, Fraser 32-9-84-2, Lewis 24-3-108-1, Gooch 6-5-26-1, Hemmings 12-5-51-1.



John Morris (right) is about to catch Sidhu off Fraser. (Reuters wirephoto)

Glamorgan beat Warwickshire

LONDON, July 28, (Reuters): Australian batsman Tom Moody cracked the fastest century of all time in 26 minutes, but still finished on the losing side as Glamorgan beat Warwickshire by five wickets in their English county championship match yesterday.

Lancashire maintained their championship challenge and moved into second place with a seven-wicket win over Nottinghamshire in their three-day game as leaders Middlesex missed victory by six runs.

Moody's fourth century in eight championship innings was made off 36 balls with seven sixes and 11 fours but came courtesy of some generous bowling from batsmen Matthew Maynard and Tony Cottee.

The 24-year-old Australian bettered the 35-minute hundreds of both Surrey's Percy Fender in 1925 and Lancashire's Steve O'Shaughnessy in 1983.

Results

At Cheltenham: Gloucestershire beat Northamptonshire by an innings and 128 runs. Northamptonshire 150 in 45.4 overs and 177 (N.

Felton 82 not out, C. Walsh eight for 58). Gloucestershire 455 for nine declared. Gloucestershire 240 points Northamptonshire three.

At Derby: Derbyshire v Worcestershire match drawn. Worcestershire 348 in 123.3 overs. Derbyshire 192 in 91.4 overs and 235 for eight (C.

Adams 63, A. Brown 42, A. Kuiper 41) when rain stopped play. Derbyshire two points Worcestershire seven.

At Southampton: Lancashire beat Nottinghamshire by seven wickets. Lancashire 452 in 108 overs and 130 for three (G. Lloyd 59 not out). Nottinghamshire 205 in 54 overs and 373 (P. Johnson 82, D. Randall 68). Lancashire 24 points Nottinghamshire four.

At Arundel: Sussex v Hampshire match drawn. Sussex 383 for nine declared in 121 overs and 144 for seven declared. Hampshire 254 for five declared in 98 overs (C. Smith 132 not out) and 220 for six (C. Smith 61). Sussex five points Hampshire six.

At Leicester: Leicestershire v Essex match drawn. Essex 197 in 66.3 overs and 349 for seven declared (J. Stephenson 131 not out, D. Pringle

84). Leicestershire 301 in 102.3 overs and 141 for five. Leicestershire seven points Essex five.

At Swansea: Glamorgan beat Warwickshire by five wickets. Warwickshire 443 for three declared in 110 overs and 212 for three declared (T. Moody 103 not out, A. Mole 83

not out). Glamorgan 373 for seven declared in 97 overs and 283 for five (A. Butcher 116, M. Maynard 56, V. Richards 65 not out). Glamorgan 20 points Warwickshire seven.

At Scarborough: Yorkshire v Somerset match drawn. Somerset 401 for seven declared in 104.5 overs and 221 for seven declared (N. Burns 72, J. Cook 53). Yorkshire 303 for six declared in 99.5 overs and 316 for seven (R. Blakey 111, S. Kellert 57, P. Robinson 44). Yorkshire and Somerset six points.

At Canterbury: Kent v Middlesex match drawn. Kent 449 for two declared in 123.1 overs and 140 (S. Marsh 61, J. Emburey three for three; N. Cowans three for 20). Middlesex 308 for three declared in 81.2 overs and 276 for eight (M. Ramprakash 125, M. Gatting 101, S. De Villiers six for 70). Kent five points Middlesex four.

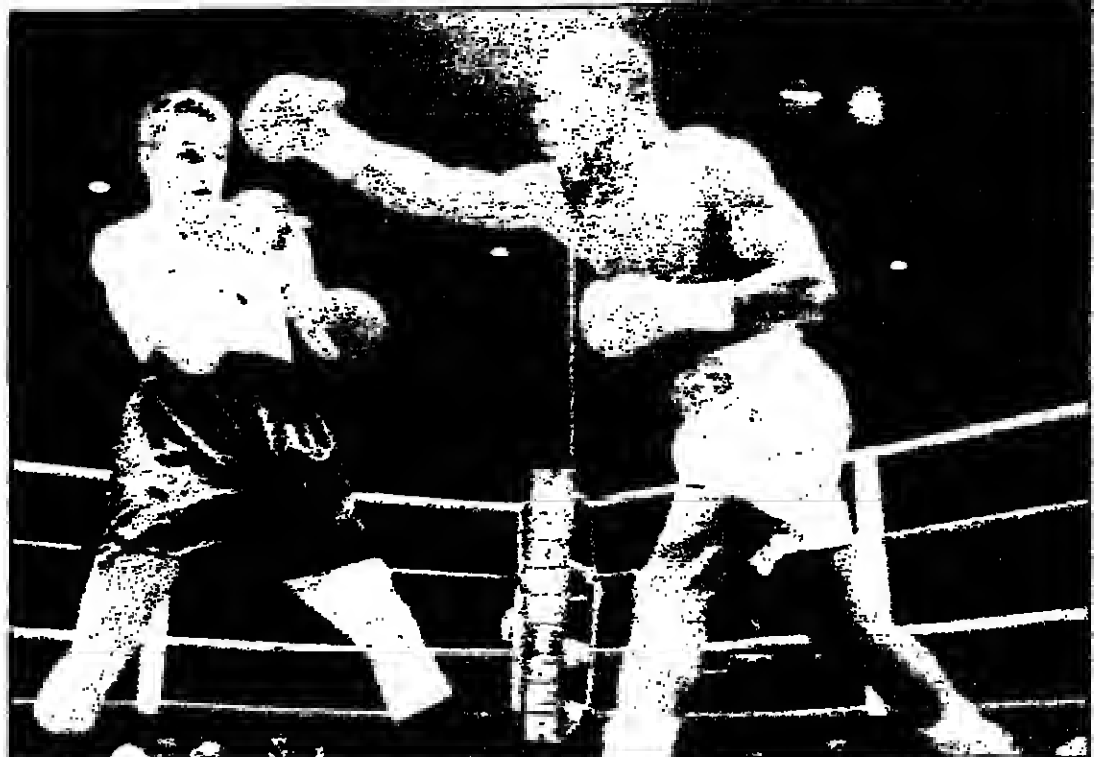
Asylum sought

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, July 28, (AP): Three disabled Iranian athletes have used a 48-nation sports event in the Netherlands to seek asylum in the United States, the US embassy and a private relief agency said yesterday.

The three were part of a 125-metre Iranian delegation at the 1990 world championships for the disabled, held in the northern Dutch city of Assen.

The episode began on the championships' final day Thursday, when two of the Iranians walked into the American consulate in Amsterdam and asked for political asylum in the United States, according to Leonardo Williams, a spokesman for the US embassy in The Hague.

Williams told the Associated Press the two were told to report to the Amsterdam police for permission to stay in the Netherlands and then go to the Roman Catholic Immigration Bureau in The Hague.



Andries (right) swings a right at Harding. (Reuters wirephoto)

Andries knocks out Harding for crown

MELBOURNE, Australia, July 28, (UPI): Englishman Dennis Andries took the World Boxing Council light heavyweight title for the third time with a seventh-round knock out of Australia's Jeff Harding at the National Tennis Centre today.

Andries' come-from-behind win was a reversal of the 25-year-old Harding's surprise 12th round knock-out of Andries in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on June 24 last year to win the title.

The Australian, who entered the ring unbeaten in 17 previous professional fights — was ahead 58-56 on the cards of two judges and 57-57 on the third card after six rounds.

He was wobbled by Andries in the second round but as the fight progressed appeared to get on top of the veteran with a stiff left jab and body punches.

In the sixth round Harding appeared to have Andries tired and confused, and seemed ready to control the fight.

However his inexperience showed when he relaxed and allowed a cut left eye, the result of some devastating rights from Andries, to worry him.

Andries came out storming at the beginning of the seventh in what appeared to be his last ditch attack.

He staggered Harding with a combination and pinned him against the ropes. The champion stood there, his head still, absorbing punches and unable to reply.

He flopped, then Andries connected a short right and then a long looping right which sent Harding down on his back, stunning the 7,000 crowd.

Harding stared at the lights and indicated that he had gathered himself. He climbed slowly to his feet but still had one knee bent on the count of 10 and New York referee Arthur Mercante stopped the fight as a knock-out.

Kinane wins Ascot race

ASCOT, England, July 28, (Reuters): Big race jockey Michael Kinane landed another major success when Belmez won the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes group one horse race by a neck today.

Belmez, the only three-year-old in the 11-strong field, got the better of a stirring finish with stable companion Old Vic, ridden by Steve Cauthen.

Assault, a 16-1 outsider ridden by 42-year-old Japanese jockey Masato Shibata, finished third, a length and a half behind Old Vic.

The result was a major triumph for trainer Henry Cecil and owner Sheikh Mohammed, the connections of both Belmez, a 15-2 chance, and Old Vic (4-1).

Sheikh Mohammed, defence minister of Dubai, also had in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (2.4 km) race but the French-trained colt, who started 3-1 favourite, could only finish fifth.

Kinane has had a golden spell since last October when he won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and a major two-year-old race in Ireland in the space of 24 hours.

He followed up this year with victories in the English 2,000 Guineas and the Belmont Stakes in the United States.

The Irishman was only confirmed as rider for Belmez on Friday when Cecil decided Old Vic, a soft ground specialist, would take his chances on the fast going.

Anne told of cruelty to horses

STOCKHOLM, July 28, (Reuters): The International Equestrian Federation (FEI) wrote to its president, Britain's Princess Anne, yesterday expressing concern over the animal cruelty allegations clouding the World Equestrian Games.

"We are deeply concerned by the various allegations against our discipline that have been progressively revealed by growing media attention in recent weeks," members of the FEI jumping committee wrote.

"We will continue to monitor and evaluate these charges and to thoroughly and thoughtfully consider measures of dealing effectively with them," the letter said.

The sport has been dealt a series of blows in recent weeks following allegations against some West German riders of cruelty to their horses during training.

The West German Equestrian Federation is investigating the allegations and plans to introduce unannounced inspections at training centres and private stables.

Earlier yesterday the Swedish federation said Belgium had asked if it could guarantee security for Evelyn Blaton, one of their show jumpers competing in the Games.

Blaton was among the riders on a controversial video showing former West German champion Paul Schockemoehle hitting horses' legs with sticks to make them jump higher, a practice known as "rapping".

Olympic gold medalist Frank Sloothaak withdrew from the Games out of solidarity with Schockemoehle, who has denied the cruelty charge, but other Schockemoehle-trained West German riders will compete.

It is feared there will be demonstrations when riders who allegedly abused their horses enter the show jumping arena.

Denmark's only entry in the world three-day event championship collapsed and died today after refusing the 28th obstacle of the cross-country.

October, ridden by owner Johan Iversen, collapsed in the blazing heat while Iversen was leading the brown mare off the course.

A statement from the Swedish Equestrian Federation said an autopsy was being performed. It gave no further details.

Sanchez beaten

HILVERSUM, Holland, July 28, (UPI): Argentine-born-Belgian Eduardo Masso overpowered top seed Emilio Sanchez 6-4, 7-5 today to reach the first tournament final of his career at the \$215,000 Dutch Open tennis tournament.

Masso, 26, is ranked 296th in the world by the Association of Tennis Professionals. He was ranked 74th in June 1988, but injuries, including serious damage to stomach muscles, saw his ranking decline in 1989.



Berger and Senna discuss tactics during the practice session



Prost and his crew make adjustments during practice. (Reuters wirephoto)



Mansell talks with his wife before today's practice run. (Reuters wirephoto)